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Africa warns against exclusion of PLO

BAHARE (R) — Twenty African political parties appealed to the United Nations Security Council to ensure the full involvement of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in any Middle East peace talks. "The exclusion of the PLO cannot only bring more violence but will also bring no lasting peace in the region," they said in a resolution marking the end of a three-day conference in Harare. The meeting, chaired by Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, said the 20 African Socialist and Democratic parties backed the PLO under the leadership of Yasser Arafat and the Palestinians' right to choose their representatives to any peace talks. "We appeal to the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to ensure that every effort is made to achieve lasting peace," the parties said. Egypt was represented by its deputy prime minister for foreign affairs, Boutros Ghali. Other participants came from Zambia, Zimbabwe, Libya, South Africa, Cameroon, Botswana, Guinea-Bissau, Cote d'Ivoire, Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania, Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Burkina Faso, Morocco, Burundi, Tunisia and Namibia.

Iraq rejects U.N. draft resolution

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Friday rejected a draft United Nations resolution which would let it sell a limited amount of oil to buy food and medical supplies. "The draft resolution does not provide the financial resources, even at a minimal level, to meet the needs of our people in terms of food, medicine and important humanitarian equipment," the Iraqi News Agency quoted Prime Minister Saddam Hammadi as saying. Dr. Hammadi said it would deny Iraq sovereignty over its natural resources and bring them under the control of other countries. The draft would allow the sale of up to \$1.6 billion worth of embargoed Iraqi oil over six months. A Security Council source said over a billion dollars would be available for food. The rest would be used to pay war reparations, cover the cost of destroying Iraq's mass destruction weapons, pay half the expenses of a U.N. commission demarcating the Iraq-Kuwait border and reimburse the United Nations for oversteering the return of Kuwaiti property (see page 2). The Baghdad government would not control a penny of the money, which oil purchasers would deposit directly into a U.N. escrow account. Dr. Hammadi said the "colonialist powers" were not concerned with the suffering of the Iraqi people.

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Arab states to coordinate positions

TUNIS (R) — Arab states will meet to coordinate their positions before any Middle East peace conference, Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid said Friday. Foreign ministers will discuss the issue at their next regular meeting in Cairo in September, he said on arrival in Tunisia for a three-day visit at the start of a North African tour. Abdul Meguid said a special summit could not be excluded, he said. Arab League participation in a peace conference would be "very positive." The Arab League chief said he would meet President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Tunis. He said his North African tour was designed to restore Arab solidarity shaken by the Gulf crisis.

Iran denies role in Bakhtiar killing

PARIS (R) — Iran Friday denied responsibility for the killing of former Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar and an aide, and said groups opposed to Tehran's involvement with the West could be blamed. "The Iranian embassy in Paris... strongly refutes accusations that the Islamic Republic of Iran was implicated in the murder of the former Iranian regime's prime minister," the embassy said in a statement. The two were found knifed to death in Mr. Bakhtiar's closely-guarded home on the outskirts of Paris Thursday (see page 2).

Boy aged two killed in SLA barrage

BEIRUT (AP) — A two-year-old boy was killed when pro-Israeli artillerymen shelled villages in South Lebanon to avenge the killing of a comrade in a guerrilla ambush, police said Friday. Police said eight other civilians were wounded in the shelling which targeted six villages north of Israel's self-designated "security zone" Thursday afternoon. The South Lebanon Army (SLA) opened up on the Nabatieh region after one of its fighters was killed and three were wounded in an ambush near Marjayoun, where the Israeli-backed militia is headquartered. Hizbollah claimed responsibility for the attack. It said in a statement released in Beirut: "Islamic resistance fighters ambushed a joint Israeli-SLA patrol and attacked it with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns, killing and wounding several enemy elements." There was no independent confirmation that Israeli soldiers were involved.

Higher friendly fire Gulf casualties

WASHINGTON (R) — Nearly twice as many U.S. soldiers were accidentally killed by so-called friendly fire from U.S. forces in the Gulf war as previously thought, two television networks reported Thursday. Both NBC and CBS said a U.S. army investigation had found that 20 of the 148 American soldiers who died in the war were killed by their own side rather than 11 previously reported. The investigation found that about 60 of the 458 U.S. soldiers wounded in the war were victims of American weapons, four times the 15 previously reported, the networks said. The Defence Department said the army planned to release the report next Tuesday but the agency would confirm the new casualty figures.

Thornburgh resigns

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Dick Thornburgh submitted his resignation Friday to be heard by a widely expected Senate race for the unexpired term of the late John Heinz of Pennsylvania, administration sources said. Mr. Thornburgh, 67, whose resignation will not be effective until next week, is the frontrunner to win the special election. The attorney general, who served two terms as governor, submitted the resignation letter to President George Bush. He said the source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity,

New abduction seen to delay hostage deal

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's influential Shiite Muslim cleric and the interior minister Friday both condemned the kidnapping of a French aid worker, whose abduction could delay the release of other hostages.

Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah used his Friday sermon to call on the kidnappers of Jerome Leyraud to free him "because we want this file closed and we want all those kidnapped released."

A caller claiming responsibility for the kidnapping Thursday said the 26-year-old would be executed if any more Western hostages were released. The kidnapping came eight hours after British television journalist John McCarthy was freed by Islamic Jihad after more than five years as a hostage.

At sundown Friday, the Syrians set up series of checkpoints on highway intersections throughout Beirut and its environs. They frisked motorists and checked car trunks apparently to prevent smuggling the kidnapped Frenchman out of the capital. Police urged citizens to report anything suspicious.

Although the Syrian command in charge of Beirut's security made no official comment on Mr. Leyraud's abduction, the Syrians are bound to feel that their previous pledges to support President Elias Hrawi's quest for peace in Beirut were hollow.

At the United Nations, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar called the latest abduction "most unhelpful and counterproductive," but said he still hoped another hostage would be set free. He had previously said it could be an American.

"I am still hopeful," he told reporters. "I have been this morning in contact with my people in Beirut and they are still hopeful."

Mr. Perez de Cuellar told reporters he was leaving for London Saturday and would meet with Mr. McCarthy a day later.

Mr. McCarthy arrived home in Britain Thursday night and spent Friday with family and friends at a British air base. He told reporters in Syria after he was released that he carried a letter for Mr. Perez de Cuellar suggesting the remaining

Western hostages be freed in exchange for hundreds of Shiite detainees held by Israel and an Israeli-allied militia.

The White House said Friday it was losing optimism about the chances for release of an American hostage in Lebanon and said now. "We do not make deals with hostage-takers."

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said President Bush had received no new information from the Middle East overnight about a possible release.

Western diplomats in Damascus said they expected no imminent release of a second Western hostage in Lebanon following Thursday's freeing of Mr. McCarthy.

"There has been no sign here so far of the arrangements which usually preceded the release of previous hostages," one diplomat told Reuters.

Lebanese security sources had originally said they expected another hostage, possibly American journalist Terry Anderson, to be freed along with, or soon after, Mr. McCarthy. Under an established procedure, followed in the McCarthy case, freed hostages are brought to Damascus to be turned over to their host government by the Syrian Foreign Ministry.

Arab diplomats said Mr. McCarthy's statements that Islamic Jihad wanted to end the hostage issue were a promising sign but it was important that their offer evoked a response. "The Israelis should release the Lebanese captives, especially Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid... to show goodwill," one diplomat said.

Israel came under increasing pressure to free some prisoners. The most prominent is Sheikh Obeid, a cleric kidnapped by Israel in July 1989. Israel has said it wants to exchange its prisoners for seven missing Israeli servicemen, or their remains.

The Beirut call said he was from the Organisation for the Defence of Prisoners Rights, which in a call Wednesday said it wanted Shiite Muslims held by Israel to be released before any more Western hostages were freed.

The call came after three grenades exploded outside a U.N. office, causing no damage. The group had never been heard of before.

It did not use any of the trademark

Islamic phrases quoted in statements by the Iranian-backed religious factions believed holding the 12 other hostages — six Americans, three Britons, two Germans and an Italian.

Islamic Jihad has repeatedly demanded the release of hundreds of Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners held in Israel in return for its Western hostages.

Israel said Friday it would free all the Arabs seized from Lebanon by Israeli forces and their South Lebanon militia allies for the remaining Western hostages and seven Israeli servicemen held in Lebanon.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said he had not been in touch with Israel but added, "in due time, certainly, I will be in touch with them."

He had characterized Mr. McCarthy's release as a possible start to a process that would bring freedom to all captives in the Middle East. Asked if he was being realistic in hoping for a second hostage release given the death threats against Mr. Leyraud, Mr. Perez de Cuellar replied:

"They have their logic and I have mine. My logic is that it would be extremely useful if they released the second hostage because that would help me enormously in my efforts. I am interested in the release of all detainees including those who are in Israel and those who are in Lebanon."

Sheikh Fadlallah, the reputed mentor of Hizbollah, said in his Friday sermon in south Beirut: "Gone is the era that had produced positive results out of hostage-taking."

"We as Muslims and Lebanese are required to safeguard the security and safety of every person who lives in Lebanon like we want other nations to safeguard our security abroad," he added.

Mr. Leyraud had been in Beirut since June working for the French agency Medecins du Monde (Doctors of the World) as a project manager supervising repair work at government hospitals damaged in 16 years of civil war.

Interior Minister Sami Khatib announced Friday that Mr. Leyraud was grabbed by two unidentified men in civilian outfits while he was stuck in a traffic jam in Beirut's Verdun street.

(Continued on page 5)

Intifada enters 45th month

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories stayed indoors Friday in a general strike marking 44 months of their revolt against Israeli occupation.

Businesses closed and transport stopped in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in response to calls by nationalist and Muslim fundamentalist leaders to commemorate the start of the revolt on Dec. 9, 1987.

Israeli Radio said the army was considering replacing regular and reserve troops in the occupied territories with paramilitary border police units it believed were better trained and equipped to fight street protests.

Palestinians say the border police already serving in the occupied territories are notorious for their brutality.

In Nuseirat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, an Arab suspected of working for the Israeli secret service was found dead hours after being kidnapped by masked men, residents said.

They named him as Hani Jaabar but gave no more details. Military sources said the army destroyed one house and partially demolished a second one in the Gaza Strip town of Rafah to punish their owners who were arrested in June on charges of possessing weapons and killing Arabs accused of being Israeli informers.

Palestinians said the two men, Shaban Hunaif, 20, and Adel Jaabari, 26, were members of the Black Panther group.

Arab activists hurled a fire-bomb towards an Israeli bus in the West Bank city of Hebron but missed it, residents said. They said the army clamped a curfew on the area.

Israeli sources said later any replacement of regular and reserve troops by border police was a long way off, citing a shortage of money and manpower.

Talabani: Jordan an example for democratisation of Iraq

Kurdish leader to discuss Turkish attacks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani left Amman for Turkey Friday after a brief visit to Jordan during which he was received by His Majesty King Hussein.

Mr. Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said he discussed with King Hussein the situation in Iraq in particular and the region in general as well as the ongoing negotiations between the Iraqi government and a Kurdish delegation representing Kurdish parties in Iraq.

In an interview with Jordan News Agency, Petra, before his departure, Mr. Talabani said he also discussed with King Hussein the "historic relations between the two brotherly Arab and Kurdish nations and ways of enhancing these relations and safeguarding Iraqi national unity."

Mr. Talabani's talks with Turkish officials are expected to centre on military attacks on Kurdish rebels' hideouts in northern Iraq.

"Mr. Talabani is going to Turkey to hold talks with officials there on military incursions into northern Iraq and attacks against Kurdish guerrilla bases there," an official accompanying Mr. Talabani told the Associated Press in exchange for anonymity.

He said: "We have protested these (military) operations within the territory of Iraq and it is necessary to talk to the Turkish side about it."

Turkish troops and planes attacked Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq where Iraqi Kurds plan to set an autonomous region — attempting to flush out the guerrillas operating from bases there.

In his remarks to Petra, Mr. Talabani lauded Jordan's democratic experiment and pointed out that he informed the Iraqi government of his approval to follow the Jordanian experiment in Iraq "and to take it as an example to be followed."

Mr. Talabani said of the main reason that is obstructing the signing of a treaty between the Iraqi government and the Kurdish parties was a "thorough and detailed study undertaken by both sides on pressing problems in addition to other issues such as democratic change in Iraq," which is a pressing need for all nations and is a means through which all Iraq's problems can be solved, including the

Kurdish problem.

"Without the existence of a democratic climate, there is no guarantee for implementing agreements that will be reached," he said.

"This makes it inevitable to study the issue of democracy thoroughly."

Mr. Talabani said that the Kurdish problem is a result of foreign interventions since World War I and that these interventions "stand in the way of finding a permanent solution to the problem."

"Therefore, the Kurdish side is keen on keeping away from any foreign intervention," he said.

He affirmed that a final solution to the Kurdish problem should be reached "so that Iraq will not have a problem called the Kurdish problem and so that it will be able to solve its economic and political problems."

Mr. Talabani accused most of the countries in the region of being against any agreement between Iraq and the Kurds and called on the Iraqi and the Kurdish sides to "understand this fact and avoid foreign intervention through bringing about democratic change in Iraq."

He pointed out that democracy in Iraq "frightens some of its neighbours."

He said the Iraqi government and the Kurdish delegation have agreed on the form of Kurdish self-rule, which he described as different from the previous one. Other points agreed on are related to normalising the situation in "Iraqi Kurdistan" and the issue of Iraqi-Kurdish national unity, he said.

"What remains to be discussed is the issue of democracy and the relationship between the Kurdish movements inside Iraq and other movements outside it and the self-rule area, which was not of great significance as a problem."

Answering a question on the coincidence of his visit with a visit to Jordan by Iraqi Vice-President Tahar Yassin Ramadan, he said the PUK's relations with the Iraqi government "are good and that there is no need for holding talks with Iraqi officials outside Iraq."

"The Kurdish delegation to the negotiations is in Baghdad and the direct dialogue (with the Iraqi government) will continue," he said.

On the Security Council's insistence on keeping the economic sanctions on Iraq, he said the U.N. resolutions on Iraq "are unjust and are considered as flagrant interference in its internal affairs."

He stressed the need to bring these resolutions to an end and called for safeguarding Iraq's unity, sovereignty and national unity.

He pointed out that the issue of lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait was discussed in meetings he had with several European officials.

On the Kurdish stand on the Palestinian issue, Mr. Talabani said the Palestinian problem in general and Jerusalem in particular "have a special status in the hearts of the Kurdish people" and that they support the right of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in representing the Palestinians in any negotiations.

In Ankara, Turkey's defence minister Friday defended the call for a "buffer zone" to be set up in northern Iraq to prevent new cross-border attacks by rebel Turkish Kurds based there.

"A definite security zone must be established. This may be parallel to our borders," Defence Minister Barlas Dogu told the semi-official Anatolian news agency.

Mr. Dogu said a five-day offensive by planes, helicopter gunships and commandos against rebel bases inside northern Iraq was hearing its end but did not say when the forces would withdraw. Iraq protested on Thursday at the incursions.

For firm security, a buffer zone must be drawn up to prevent the separatist bandits from carrying out hit-and-run attacks," Mr. Dogu contended.

But a Foreign Ministry official said Turkey had no such declared policy. "What we have said is that the forces will withdraw from northern Iraq when the operation reaches its target," the official, who declined to be named, told Reuters.

Ankara has vowed to smash strongholds of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), seeking a separate state in Turkey.

(Continued on page 5)

Israel says it is conditionally ready to hear Syria on occupied Golan Heights

87 per cent of Israelis polled support peace conference

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A senior official says Israel has a list of topics it wants to discuss with Syria at a proposed peace conference before hearing its claims to the "Israeli annexed" Golan Heights.

Yossi Ben-Aharon, director-general of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office, told the biggest selling daily Yedioth Ahronoth in an interview published Friday.

"We will ask them what is the meaning of the peace they are talking about. And what they will do about the (Syrian) Jews, what they will do about their takeover of Lebanon and about the terrorist groups in their country."

"We will also ask them if they are prepared to revise their constitution which negates the state of Israel's right to exist. We will be prepared to hear what they have to say about the Golan Heights. But first we want answers to the questions I mentioned."

Israel occupied the strategic Golan Heights from Syria in the 1967 war and "annexed" it in 1981. Mr. Shamir's right-wing government has vowed not to cede control.

Syria has accepted a U.S. proposal to attend Middle East peace talks in October. Israel said it would join only if it agreed to who represents Palestinians.

Some of the 11,000 Jewish settlers in the Golan fear Mr. Shamir might give up the Heights, while refusing to yield on the occupied West Bank or Gaza Strip.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens said in a radio interview on Friday that Israel hoped to talk about things other than territory with Syria.

"If the only matter that will be up for discussion between us and Syria is the subject of territory, I fear it will be hard to get very far."

Israelis overwhelmingly sup-

port their government's decision to attend a peace conference and are optimistic it will lead to a political settlement, according to an opinion poll published Friday.

The telephone poll, conducted by Teleskop Monday and Tuesday for the daily Maariv, questioned 503 Israeli adults.

It said 86.8 per cent supported the U.S.-proposed peace talks, 5.9 per cent were opposed, and the rest had no opinion. It gave a four-per cent margin of error.

Asked whether they believed the conference would lead to a political settlement between Israel and the Arab states, 15.9 per cent were very optimistic, 38.2 per cent somewhat optimistic, while 17.5 per cent doubted the talks would yield results.

Seven per cent did not respond.

The poll appeared two days after an American-Israeli team

began formulating a memorandum of understanding sought in Israel to guarantee U.S. backing at the conference.

Israel has said it will attend the meeting provided its terms for Palestinian representation are met.

Israel objects to the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and also opposes Palestinians from East Jerusalem joining the talks.

Maariv said the United States was trying to set up direct talks between Israel and Jordan in order to solve the dispute. Israel wants the Palestinians to be part of a Jordanian delegation at the conference.

The U.S. delegation will also press Palestinian leaders Hanan Ashrawi and Faisal Husseini to go to Amman to discuss the composition of the delegation, Maariv said.

Mr. Husseini and Ms. Ashrawi met the U.S. delegation informally Friday.

PNC likely to meet in Algeria Sept. 15

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Senior Palestinian leaders plan to meet and discuss the U.S.-proposed Arab-Israeli peace conference and efforts to solve the Palestinian problem, an official reported Friday.

The speaker of Palestine National Council (PNC), Sheikh Abdul Hamid Sayeh, said a meeting for the law-making body was tentatively scheduled for Sept. 15 in Algeria.

Sheikh Sayeh said that he was leaving for Algeria Sunday to prepare the agenda of talks for the 450-member legisla-

ture, which decides Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) policy.

"The meeting will discuss developments on the Arab and international arenas, but it will focus on the U.S.-proposed Middle East peace conference and plans to resolve the Palestinians' plight," Sheikh Sayeh told the Associated Press.

He said that the council will also discuss Palestinian representation in the proposed peace conference.

The United States, which is co-sponsoring the conference along with the Soviet Union, favours the formation of a

joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the proposed peace conference.

The PLO's sympathy towards Iraq during the Gulf crisis has led the United States and its Arab allies to speak of trying to bypass the PLO, or at least its current leadership, in peace discussions.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker who toured the region six times this year, said Washington prefers a joint delegation of Jordanian officials and Palestinian representatives not connected to the PLO.

Jordan stressed that Palestinians should pick their representatives to the proposed con-

ference and that those representatives should negotiate the Palestinian dimension of the problem with Israel.

His Majesty King Hussein said he was waiting for a PLO acceptance to the suggested formula.

Sheikh Sayeh said that the council will also elect new members to replace an estimated 70 members who have died recently as well as a new speaker.

In the last PNC meeting in November 1988, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat proclaimed an independent Palestinian state, renounced terrorism and recognised Israel.

Bakhtiar knifed to death; blame placed at Tehran feet

PARIS (Agencies) — The shah of Iran's last prime minister has been found stabbed to death at his home outside Paris, and Iranian exiles claimed the slaying was the work of a hit squad from Tehran.

Shahpour Bakhtiar, 76, and his top aide, Pouroush Katibeh, were discovered by Mr. Bakhtiar's son at their well-guarded home in Suresnes, west of Paris. They were killed sometime Wednesday night or Thursday morning, police said.

An anonymous caller to an international news agency said Thursday evening his group had carried out the killing and further similar action was planned.

"That's Bakhtiar done for. We are now in Brussels," said the caller, speaking in French and Arabic. There was no way of verifying whether the call was genuine or a hoax.

It was unclear how an assailant could have entered the residence, which is guarded around the clock by four policemen. There were no signs of forced entry or a struggle.

Police said they were searching for three Iranians who visited Bakhtiar Tuesday afternoon. Papers checked by guards showed they lived in France, police said.

Iranian exiles immediately claimed the killings were carried out by Iran in retaliation for Mr. Bakhtiar's staunch criticism of the radical regime that came to power — led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini — after the 1979 revolution.

Mr. Bakhtiar's murder "was ordered by the mullahs" of Iran, said former Iranian President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr.

"Three or four days ago I received a list of oppositionists that the regime had decided to suppress ... and among them was Shahpour Bakhtiar," said Mr. Bani-Sadr, who also lives in exile near Paris. "I received information saying that this time it was very serious, and that the mullahs in power had decided to suppress me (as well)."

"There is no doubt that this was committed by a death squad from the Khomeini regime," said Afshine Alavi, international secretary of the Mujahideen-e-Khalq, an Iranian exile group.

An attempt was made on Bakhtiar's life 11 years ago, when armed men posing as journalists entered his house and tried to shoot their way to the ex-premier. They failed, but a policeman and a neighbour were killed and three policemen were wounded.

Anis Naccache, a Lebanese national and convicted leader of a pro-Iranian squad, was convicted of leading the five-member hit squad. He was released from prison in 1989 in exchange for three French hostages released from Lebanon.

It was not known if Mr. Bakhtiar had received death threats recently, but neighbours said the police guard around his house had been increased this week.

In Tehran, official radio made a simple announcement of Mr.

Bakhtiar's death, saying he had been killed in Paris.

The French foreign ministry condemned the killing and said it expected an investigation would "shed all light" on the attack. The interior ministry ordered tight controls at all border points.

Prime Minister Edith Cresson called the murders a "cowardly attack."

Apparently seeking to shift blame from Iran, Tehran's U.N. ambassador, Kamal Kharazi, said in New York that he saw a connection between the assassination and the release of British hostage John McCarthy in Beirut.

"I believe it's a suspicious issue that these two phenomena are coinciding, and I don't know who has done (the assassination) and what is behind it," Mr. Kharazi told the U.S. Cable News Network. He did not elaborate.

Mr. Bani-Sadr also claimed there was a link between Mr. Bakhtiar's murder and the release of Mr. McCarthy. "It was to cover up the assassination that they freed the hostage," he said.

Mr. Bakhtiar served in office only 38 days before escaping to France when Shah Reza Pahlavi was toppled by Shiite Muslim fundamentalists in February 1979.

Mr. Bakhtiar in 1981 founded the National Resistance Movement, an opposition-in-exile group opposed to the revolutionary government.

In April, a close associate of Mr. Bakhtiar was stabbed to



Shahpour Bakhtiar

death in Paris. Abdul Rahman Boroumand, 63, a leading Iranian dissident, was murdered at his home about an hour after meeting with Mr. Bakhtiar, who blamed Iranian forces for the killing.

Bakhtiar was married to a Frenchwoman.

Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, who returned from holiday to pay tribute to Mr. Bakhtiar at a Paris mortuary, said Thursday France hoped to be able to bring the killers to justice.

Asked whether the murder would affect relations between France and Iran, Mr. Dumas told reporters: "When we have all the information, we will be able to draw the necessary conclusions."

Relations between France and Iran have improved considerably in the past year and President Francois Mitterrand is due to visit Tehran in the autumn.

Former Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson said the visit would be out of the question if a link with the Iranian government was proved.

Iraq could cooperate if oil sale extended

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraq might accept a U.N. proposal to allow it to sell limited amounts of oil if the sales were allowed over a longer term and Iraq had more control over the revenue earned by them, Iraq's ambassador said Thursday.

Abdul Amir Al Anbani said that several Third World members of the Security Council had agreed with his proposal that the proposed oil sale resolution be amended.

The United States, Britain, China, France and the Soviet Union Wednesday agreed on a draft resolution permitting \$1.6 billion in tightly controlled oil sales by Iraq in three instalments over six months.

The entire 15-member council is expected to discuss the resolution early next week.

"The resolution could be improved by extending the sale from six months to one year," Mr. Anbani told reporters. He said Iraq should be given more authority over the oil sale and the imports of basic necessities.

Under the current resolution, the U.N. Security Council would set up an escrow account to take in the oil revenue and portion out payments for food, medicine and other needs for Iraq, as well as to compensate victims of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The oil sales also would finance U.N. military observers and the destruction of Iraqi weapons.

Mr. Anbani repeated that Iraq would not sell oil under such a restrictive programme.

Thirty per cent of the oil revenue would be set aside to compensate victims of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the Gulf war. The revenue would also help finance U.N. ceasefire monitoring activities, including non-conventional weapons teams and military observers along the Iraq-Kuwait border.

Under the proposal, the Iraqi government would not be able to determine how the money would be spent.

The United Nations also would monitor distribution of the supplies.

Mr. Anbani said the resolution should be amended to give Iraq more control in the use of the funds. He said Baghdad would agree to turn over documents about the oil sales and purchase of humanitarian supplies.

The non-aligned nations in the Security Council are discussing the resolution among themselves and could recommend amendments to ease restrictions on Iraq. Any of the five permanent members could veto such amendments.

The non-aligned council members include India, Ivory Coast, Cuba, Ecuador, Romania, Yemen, Zair and Zimbabwe.

The oil sale would be a one-time exception to the U.N. economic sanctions imposed after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Western diplomats said.

Canadian claim

Canadians will slap Iraq with a claim for about \$100 million in compensation for suffering and damage inflicted in Iraq and Kuwait during the Gulf crisis, a government official said Thursday.

The size of the claim may rise, the official said, as Canadians continue to learn the extent of the damage.

"We're preparing the claim so when a fund is set up for reparations Canadians can be compensated," External Affairs Department spokesman Rodney Moore said in an interview.

Almost 200 personal claims are being filed by Canadians held, injured or forced to leave following Iraq's invasion of the emirate.

Islamic ministers end conference, assail Iraq

ISTANBUL (AP) — Foreign Ministers from Islamic countries condemned Iraq Thursday for its invasion of Kuwait, said it was "fully responsible" for human and material losses and demanded compensation.

The condemnation came in the final communiqué of the 20th conference of Islamic foreign ministers, the first such meeting of the group since the Gulf war.

Mohammed Saeed Al Sahat, Iraq's minister of state for foreign affairs who failed to convince the conference to call for a lifting of U.N. sanctions against Iraq, walked out of the final session.

Iraq was condemned in the communiqué for "persecuting, torturing and killing Kuwaiti citizens, plundering public and private property and setting fire to and sabotaging oil wells."

The foreign ministers said Iraq was "fully responsible for the human and material damages inflicted upon Kuwait and other countries" and demanded compensation from Iraq.

They also demanded that Iraq adhere to all U.N. Security Council resolutions on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

The communiqué also praised the Palestinian Intifada as "the just struggle of the valiant Palestinian people."

It also called for urgent international protection of Palestinians under Israeli occupation and reaffirmed its recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the "sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

The foreign ministers said the PLO can represent Palestinians "in all conferences and activities relating to the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict."

The clause reflected conference reservations regarding a Middle East peace conference which U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has been trying to organise. Israel has said it would not accept PLO as a negotiating partner.

On Cyprus, the conference turned down a bid by the breakaway Turkish republic of northern Cyprus for membership. But it agreed to "enhance" the existing observer status by allowing it to take part in the conference's activities.

It urged the Turkish and Greek Cypriots to negotiate together to reach a settlement and expressed support to the U.N. secretary general mediating in the dispute.

The conference also at least partially sided with host Turkey, underlining what it called "the key importance of respect for the principle of political equality" in seeking a solution to the Cyprus problem.

Turkish and Turkish Cypriot governments have accepted a call by U.S. President George Bush for a meeting with Greek and Cypriot leaders. But Turkish Cypriot officials said they would insist on recognition of equality "meaning a rotating presidency in the projected federal state, equal representation in the government and strengthened guarantees from Turkey."

The conference also called for a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant U.N. resolutions. It urged India, holding the bigger portion of the disputed, Muslim-dominated territories, to allow international human rights groups to visit the two provinces to check the allegations of abuses.

Kuwait reported to have ended secondary boycott

The Jerusalem Post

NEW YORK — Kuwait no longer enforces the secondary Arab boycott against Israel — at least for U.S. firms — the American ambassador there says.

Ambassador Edward Gnehm, in a letter dated May 30 to Senator Ernest Hollings, said Kuwait publicly announced it no longer required companies to produce documents such as certificates of origin, which were previously used to police the boycott.

The letter was released yesterday by the World Jewish Con-

gress (WJC).

Mr. Gnehm quoted the Kuwaiti director of customs saying the boycott would be "different," and goods could be imported to Kuwait from any coalition country — regardless of the seller.

"He said specifically the boycott 'black list' would not be used against American companies," Mr. Gnehm wrote.

The ambassador denied media reports that "Jewish firms or Americans of the Jewish faith could not obtain contracts or employment in Kuwait."

"Those reports are simply not

true," Mr. Gnehm said.

"Since Kuwait's liberation, many new American firms have found business opportunities in Kuwait, and many of those companies employ Americans of the Jewish faith."

Elan Steinberg, the WJC executive director, said the letter was important as an official written acknowledgement by the State Department that the boycott against American firms was stopped.

"In effect, it is the U.S. that is giving assurances Kuwait has lifted the boycott, and therefore

the onus of this policy remaining in effect remains with the U.S.," he said.

"The American ambassador has taken a major responsibility in having reassured a U.S. senator that the boycott has been lifted."

But Mr. Steinberg suggested the Kuwaitis may have abandoned the boycott because Iraqi troops "looted the boycott office in Kuwait City," leaving the complex boycott enforcement machinery "in a shambles."

"These files and records are not easily replaced," he said.

45% of Americans think stopping settlements should be condition for loan guarantees

The Jerusalem Post

NEW YORK — A majority of Americans believe the U.S. should require Israel to stop building settlements in the occupied territories as a condition for providing loan guarantees to resettle Soviet Jews, or believe the loans should not be granted under any circumstances, according to an NBC News/Wall Street Journal survey released Thursday.

Forty-five per cent of those surveyed responded that the loan guarantees should be granted only on condition that Israel be forced to stop building the settlements, while another 11 per cent said the U.S. should not provide the guarantees under any circumstances.

Only 29 per cent believed that the loan guarantees should be granted without the U.S. requiring Israel to halt settlement activity.

Fifty per cent of the more than 1,000 respondents felt that Israel should give up

control of land in the occupied territories and Golan Heights in exchange for a peace agreement with the Arab states; 34 per cent said Israel should not give up control, and 16 per cent were unsure.

According to the survey, which was conducted between July 26-29 — less than a week before Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir answered "yes" to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposal for a Middle East peace conference — more Americans still said they thought Israel was a bigger obstacle to Middle East peace than the Arab countries.

Asked who is "currently the biggest obstacle to finding a peace settlement in the Arab-Israeli dispute," 37 per cent of those surveyed answered Israel; 35 per cent said they thought it was the Arab nations, and 11 per cent answered "both equally."

The survey had a margin of error of 32 per cent.

Kurdish guerrillas free ten German tourists

ANKARA (AP) — Ten German tourists who were kidnapped by Kurdish guerrillas in eastern Turkey a week ago were released Friday, a Germany Embassy spokesman said.

The Germans — four women, three men and three children — had been set free and were in the eastern town of Tatvan, the spokesman said.

The semi-official Anatolia news agency reported that the tourists were released in Cizici-bur, located between the two neighbouring eastern provinces of Mus and Bitlis.

They were spotted by a passenger bus on the road around 0530 a.m. (0230 GMT) when the tourists waved and asked him to stop, the dispatch said.

The bus driver took them to a gas station and telephoned police from the gas station at 0730 a.m. (0430 GMT) and brought them to a police station in Tatvan, it added.

Journalists were only allowed to take photographs of the tourists briefly, Anatolia said. They appeared in good health but were exhausted and their outfits were covered with mud, it added.

Kurdish guerrillas abducted 15 German tourists from their camp site near a crater lake in the

eastern Bitlis province late Thursday. Five later managed to escape.

The guerrillas said the kidnapping was in retaliation for the prosecution of the members of the Kurdish Labour (PKK) in Germany.

Several PKK members live under refugee status in Germany and the German government has cracked down on several of them for their links with extremism.

The National Liberation Front of Kurdistan announced in Germany this week that the leadership of the Kurdish separatist movement did not approve of the kidnappings and the tourists would be released.

A spokesman for the front said the kidnappings were carried out by a regional operating group of the military wing of the PKK, which acted on its own.

PKK has been fighting in Turkey's mostly Kurdish southeast for seven years for a separate state. About 3,000 people have been killed in clashes since 1984.

It is rare for the guerrillas to target foreigners.

Turkish soldiers had searched the area to find the tourists over the past week. Two specially trained German policemen also joined the rescue operation.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Le Chevalier de Labyrinth
18:30 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Carnet de Notes
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Kate and Allie
21:00 Encounter
21:30 Classical Music
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature Film: "Moonlight"

PRAYER TIMES

06:40 Fajr
08:30 Sunrise (Duba)
12:41 Dhuhr
16:21 Asr
19:32 Maghreb
20:59 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetfeth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713311

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assiout International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A drop in temperatures will take place and winds will be northwesterly moderate, freshening at times. In Aqaba, it will be dusty with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

Amman Min./max. temp. 20/32

Aqaba 25/38

Deserts 22/36

Jordan Valley 24/38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 51 per cent, Aqaba 33 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Mohammad Manna 7414444

Dr. Amwar Musa 771020

Dr. Fakhri Bilal 662412

Dr. Salman Al Dabbousi 776781

Firas pharmacy 661912

Fordous pharmacy 776336

Al Asma pharmacy 670555

Natrouth pharmacy 625672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644445

Simeon pharmacy 637660

IBRD: Dr. Mazen Abu Baker (—) Al Sharaa pharmacy (275825)

ZARQA: Dr. Yousef Fadel (—) Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank Amman 60800

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 60800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Abdell Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 636381

HOSPITALS

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 513813/2

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 643441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 848945

Palestine, Shmiciani 664171/4

Shmiciani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 642362

Al-Mashar Hospital 66727/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Mashayeen 77101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 662240/90

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA: Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986752

IBRD: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272715

Ibn Nafes Hospital (02)247100

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111</

Children visit Petra

PETRA (Petra) — Children participating in the Arab Children's Congress held in Amman Thursday visited the archaeological city of Petra, in south Jordan.

The children were briefed on the history of the city and the surrounding area and on means adopted to conserve it.

The children also visited Wadi Musa and met with children from the area at Wadi Musa Charitable Society. The visit is part of a week-long programme which entails, among other things, visits to Jordanian households, tours of archaeological and tourist sites and attendance of various cultural performances.

Children from Jordan, Algeria, Sudan, Palestine, Iraq and Tunisia are taking part in the congress which was opened Wednesday by Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The congress, initiated in 1980 after the Amman Arab Summit, brings together children from various parts of the Arab World in a bid to help boost cultural interaction among Arab countries.

Jordan Alumni Club awards RJ

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director General of Royal Jordanian (RJ) Airlines Husam Abu Ghazaleh Thursday received the trophy of the University of Jordan's Alumni Club in appreciation of RJ's role and its active participation in the celebration held by the club to mark the 39th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne.

The trophy was delivered to Mr. Abu Ghazaleh by club President Abdul Karim Al Kabarti, who visited Mr. Abu Ghazaleh in his office.

RJ participation in the celebration was in the form of a pavilion it had set up at the celebration site. The pavilion displayed photographs reflecting the most important activities performed by RJ.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh expressed appreciation to the University of Jordan's Alumni Club.



King receives Libyan delegate

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday received a message from Libyan President Muammar Qadhafi dealing with bilateral relations and the latest developments on the Arab and international scenes.

The message was delivered by Col. Mustafa Kharroubi, member of the 1st September Libyan Revolution Leadership, during an audience with the King.

The audience was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Information and Culture Minister and acting Foreign Minister Dr. Khaled Karaki, the Jordanian ambassador to Libya, the Libyan ambassador to Amman and the director of the Arab Department and the Libyan Foreign Ministry.

Col. Kharroubi arrived in Amman Thursday, from Damascus, on a brief visit to Jordan. His visit is part of a tour which will take him to a number of Arab countries for consultations on developments in the Arab region.

Col. Kharroubi left Amman Friday. Also Thursday, King Hussein received Jalal Talabani, an Iraqi-Kurdish leader, and exchanged views with him on the situations in the Arab region. The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Influx of repatriates, visitors given as reason for water shortage

AMMAN (Petra) — Drinking water shortage in certain areas of the Kingdom was caused by the return of large numbers of expatriates and the sudden arrival in the Kingdom of many visitors. They increased demand on water significantly, according to Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kassar.

He said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the ministry over the past four weeks was pumping 600 cubic metres per hour of water as additional quantities from Al Hidan region to Amman to meet the increasing demand for water.

He added that electrical power disruptions, for three weeks, exacerbated the water shortage problem. "Electrical power cuts, even for a few minutes, halt the process of pumping water for hours," the minister said.

The ministry, he said, is keen on providing drinking water to every citizen "and will never hesitate to discuss and study all available substitutes to achieve this objective."

Every summer Amman is visited by thousands of expatriates who come to spend their vacations with their families. This year, more than 350,000 Jordanians and Palestinians returned from Kuwait and several Arab Gulf states because of the situation there. In addition, more than 100,000 Iraqis visited Jordan this summer because of various reasons.

Mr. Kassar said that there were about 17 million cubic metres of water for irrigation in the King Talal dam and that this quantity was not sufficient in the light of the increasing demand.

The ministry intends in the near future to conduct a study on the quantities of irrigation water available and the quantities required for the new agricultural season in the Jordan Valley region in order to inform farmers of the water situation and the ministry's capabilities so that they reduce water consumption, the minister said.

He affirmed that water in the King Talal dam was not polluted and was fit for agricultural use. But, he added, as water in the dam decreases, it will be difficult to determine whether the water will be fit for irrigation.

"This will be determined by the availability of water in reasonable quantities and we are trying to preserve the rights of the farmers, whether now or in the future. Therefore we conduct laboratory tests on water flowing in and out of the dam and we will soon have a clear picture of the water situation in terms of available quantities, required quantities, substitute water sources and other related things," he said.

"Farmers will be familiarised with all our findings so that we cooperate together in drawing the features of the coming agricultural stage in the Jordan Valley."



Scenic view from Dana Wildlife Reserve (file photo)

Nature societies express concern over state of Dana Wildlife Reserve

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A joint study by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) conducted in 1976 has been reactivated recently by RSCN and the Forestry Department at Ministry of Agriculture.

Although the study designated 12 reserve areas to be established in Jordan as a means of protecting the Kingdom's diverse habitats, RSCN and the Ministry of Agriculture express special concern about the Dana reserve.

According to informed sources at RSCN, Dana, near Tafelsh in the south of Jordan, is in dire need for protection. "The Dana area has been overgrazed by cattle and goats. Trees were cut down for firewood. That meant that roots, that usually bind the soil together, were lost and heavy rainfall led to soil erosion," Maher Abu Jaafar, general director of RSCN, said.

"This, along with the drying

up of water holes in the area, due to drought, the loss of vegetation and some wildlife because of lack of food and because of animal hunting by the locals, (is the reason) some animals are now almost locally extinct. This is reason enough to protect (the) Dana area," he added.

The president of RSCN, Anis Muasher, said that conservation and development were often perceived as being conflicting missions. "This need not be the case," Mr. Muasher said. "RSCN is setting out at Dana to harmonise these two objectives."

Mr. Muasher added that the Dana project was not only a nature reserve but an integrated conservation project encompassing the protection of natural species of the region along with planning and assistance in controlled development of the area surrounding the reserve.

Dana reserve encompasses 150 square kilometres, ranging from wooded mountains, in the northern sector, to a lesser scrub steppe in the south. Last year, the Ministry of

Agriculture, officially designated Dana as a nature reserve, consequently, defining the role of RSCN.

"RSCN has already appointed a team of wardens to patrol the reserve area and enforce the protected status of the reserve," Mr. Muasher said. "An extensive reforestation programme is being conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture with German assistance."

According to Mr. Muasher, the project encompasses the additional measures needed to make the Dana Wildlife Reserve complete. "The reforestation programme will continue and the indigenous trees of the area will be protected and cared for to prevent a recurrence of the petrification that afflicted some trees in the recent past," he said.

The reserve will also be host to a wildlife reintroduction centre. "The centre will be an integral part of the RSCN captive breeding programme that is aimed at restoring to Jordan endangered species that have become locally extinct," Mr. Muasher said.

Industrial exhibition opens

AMMAN (Petra) — The second Jordanian national industries exhibition, organised by the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation to mark the King's accession to the throne anniversary, opens today at Amman International Fair in Marj Al Hamam.

The exhibition, which will last until Aug. 25, displays industrial products by 138 Jordanian companies and establishments. The Amman Chamber of Industry has extended invitations to Arab chambers of industry and commerce delegations to attend the opening ceremony.

On Friday, a delegation representing Oman Chamber of Industry and Commerce arrived in Amman. The delegation comprises members of the chamber's board of directors and executive council Salem Al Khalili and Salem Al Jahouri.

A delegation representing Damascus Chamber of Industry arrives today. The delegation will comprise the chamber's Board of Directors Chairman Yahya Al Nada, the chamber's Director General Abdul Majid Malkani and member of the Board of Directors Adel Al Hussein.

Minister stresses role of youth in serving local communities

AMMAN (Petra) — The 5th national gathering for Jordanian youth, which began in Ajloun on Aug. 5, ended there Thursday.

Addressing the closing session of the gathering, which included 120 Jordanian youth working or studying abroad, Youth Minister Saleh Erseheidat underscored the role of youth in serving local community and recalled the objectives of such national gatherings.

The gathering, which is held annually, aims at forging closer ties of friendship and cooperation among Jordanian youth abroad and to give them the opportunity to see for themselves the achievements their country has made. In addition to that, the gathering gives participants the opportunity to enrich their experiences through exchanges of experience, thoughts and ideas.

Before ending their meetings, participants visited the Public Security Department (PSD) where they were briefed by PSD Director Maj. General Fadel Ali Fuhaid on the duties of the Public Security Department.

Maj. Gen. Fuhaid said that the PSD personnel did not spare any effort in providing security and stability for citizens and the country.

He said that the PSD personnel was fully equipped to protect citizens and their property, and to provide the necessary security climate necessary for the economic, and social development.

He spoke about the role of the PSD personnel in ensuring the sound performance of the parliamentary elections which took place in November 1989.

He stressed the public security philosophy saying that it is based on respect of law and safeguarding national security without any intimidation or threat.

More expatriates to arrive

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The fresh flow of expatriates from Kuwait, which began last week is expected to continue mostly throughout this month and September, with close to 10,000 arrivals before the end of September, expatriate sources said Friday.

Two chartered planes brought in 340 expatriates Friday. Other flights are expected later this week.

"Technically one cannot call it expulsion by the Kuwaiti authorities, but that is what is practically amounts to," said an expatriate who has volunteered his services to help the returnees. "The (Kuwaiti) employers are not renewing their work and residence permits. Some of them were hanging on in Kuwait only to collect their severance pay and close their accounts with banks," said the volunteer who preferred not to be identified since several of his family members remain in the emirate.

"When there is no employment and you can't even send your children to school, what is the purpose of staying in any country?" he asked.

Reports from Kuwait have said that children of expatriates whose countries were perceived as supporters of Iraq during the Gulf crisis were being denied admission.

Some of the returnees said they lived through the seven-month occupation of Kuwait and opted to stay on with the hope of finding alternative employers. "But the government policy of 'Kuwaitisation' of the employment market worked against us," said a civil engineer who returned Tuesday.

"As if that were not enough, there is the perpetual mistreatment and fear of persecution" by Kuwaitis, said the engineer who identified himself as Yasser, a native of Qubaila, near Nabul, in the occupied West Bank.

The retrenchment of Jordanian and Palestinian workers upon the expiry of their work

permits is widely seen as Kuwaiti government retribution against what the emirate's residents saw as Palestinian and Jordanian support for Iraq.

Kuwaitis went on a rampage against Jordanians, Palestinians, Yemenis and Sudanese following the liberation of the emirate in late February. Dozens were killed and hundreds were tortured. Many remain in detention.

"Very few Kuwaitis are willing to acknowledge that if it were not for their Palestinian friends they would have starved to death during the occupation," said Yasser. "They have forgotten that it was only the Palestinians who gave them shelter and food when the Iraqis were on lookout for Kuwaitis," he added. "It was also Palestinians who intervened with the Iraqis and stopped them from storming Kuwaiti homes in exclusively Kuwaiti residential areas and ensured that residents of these areas got bread and water," he recounted.

"There may be some Palestinians who supported the Iraqi invasion, but long-term Palestinian residents (of the emirate) were against it and they extended help to the Kuwaitis wherever they could," he said. "See what the Kuwaitis are giving us in return?"

Yasser explained that many of the expatriates were waiting for Kuwaiti banks to lift restrictions on withdrawals on Aug. 3 before leaving the emirate. "They had their life savings in bank accounts and they knew that it would be a long process before they could get their money if they were to leave Kuwait without it," he said.

"They went to their banks as soon as the restrictions were lifted, withdrew all their money and fled further persecution and degradation," he said.

Following the liberation of Kuwait, the emirate regime put dozens of Palestinians and Jordanians on trial for alleged

ly helping the occupation. However, bowing to Arab and international pressure, the emiri government has commuted the death sentences passed on 29 people.

Hundreds remain in Kuwaiti jails facing trials, which are expected to begin after the transfer of their cases to civilian courts from a military court, whose functions were terminated with the end of the martial law in the emirate in July.

"The situation is still very unsafe in Kuwait for us," said Yasser. "Some Kuwaitis still openly attack Palestinians and Jordanians while others treat you like dirt and spit at you," he said.

Some of those who arrived here last week were taken to the plane direct from jails where they were being held without charges, he said.

"There is no dignified life for any non-Kuwaiti in Kuwait except for Europeans and Americans," he said.

Over 850 expatriates landed in Amman aboard privately chartered planes from Kuwait this week, and another 1,900 are expected to arrive by mid-August, according to official sources.

Also expected to begin some time soon is an overland flow of others who cannot afford to pay the charter, but the situation on the Iraqi-Kuwait border or whether the Kuwaiti government will permit voluntary crossing to Iraq remains unknown.

Most of the latest arrivals here are believed to be residents of the West Bank who carry temporary Jordanian passports. The authorities have appealed that those who need not urgently reach the West Bank stay back in the East Bank for a few days so as not to clog the bridges across the river.

"Not all of the returnees have money," said the volunteer. "Some of them could hardly pay the air fare to Amman, and these people are the real ones who need help from everyone."

Investigation to be conducted into low tawjihi pass rate

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education is opening an investigation into the reasons behind the low level results of the 1990-1991 tawjihi examinations in the Kingdom.

Minister of Education Eid Dahiyat issued a circular to all educational departments to complete their investigations in four weeks.

Investigations at each school should be conducted separately so as to determine the rate of

success and failure and their reasons so that measures for non-recurrence can be taken, the minister said.

The minister said that the result of the survey would be submitted to a special Ministry of Education committee.

The results of the tawjihi examinations were announced by the minister on July 19. He told a press conference that the number of students who registered for the examinations was 62,861. Only

57,365 sat for the tests. Dr. Dahiyat said that the overall passing rate, in all branches for regular students, was 51.9 per cent, considered low compared to previous years.

Dr. Dahiyat said the number of students who failed the examination this year was high and stressed the need for evaluating the educational development process involving teachers, students and the school curricula.

Minister pledges to address engineers', contractors' grievances

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Sa'ad Hayat Al Sour Thursday visited the Jordanian Engineers Association where he met with president, Ismail Breshw and members of the association's board.

The minister was briefed by Mr. Breshw on the problems and concerns of the engineering sector, including practical training, unemployment, the unified allowances regulation and the civil servants regulation.

The president said that such problems have a big impact on the engineers and stressed the need for finding solutions to them. He praised the ministry's efforts in the field of training newly graduated engineers, saying that it helps the engineering sector not only in Jordan but

also in the Arab World. Mr. Sour said the ministry directed special attention to the engineering training programmes.

On the unemployment problem, the minister said that it was a nation-wide dilemma which affected every sector. He called for intensifying all efforts to face this problem.

The minister admitted there were shortcomings and gaps in the regulation regarding the civil servants and called for reconsidering it in order to achieve the best public interests of all sectors.

The minister stressed the need for forging closer cooperation between the ministry and the Engineers Association and pledged to further consolidate such cooperation to serve the best interests

of the country. The minister then visited the Jordanian Contractors Association, where he met with the president and members of the board.

Mr. Sour was briefed on the problems facing the contractors' sector by the association's president.

The president called for solving some of the issues which are still unresolved by the ministry and for giving priority to local contractors when carrying out projects in the country.

Mr. Sour said that his ministry was doing its best to support and develop the contractors' sector in Jordan, considering its important contribution in pushing the wheel of the Jordanian economy forward.

PSD to open registration centres for visitors to occupied Arab territories

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) reopens the travellers' registration centres today, following the congestion the two bridges on the Jordan River have recently experienced.

The centres will start registering people wishing to travel to the occupied Arab territories over King Hussein bridge as of Aug. 11, while registration for those wishing to leave over Prince Mohammad bridge will begin Aug. 12.

The PSD called on people wishing to travel to Jerusalem and Hebron governorates to register at Arwa Bint Al Hareth School, in Jabal Amman. Gazans wishing to cross the bridges should register at Ayesh Um Moumineen school in Jabal Hussein.

Travellers to Nabul Governorate have to register at Amnah Bint Sahb School on Jabal Amman.

People wishing to cross to the

occupied territories from governorates other than Amman can register at special centres that will be opened at police departments and schools.

Conference calls for strengthening Islamic ties

ISTANBUL (Petra) — Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour called on Arab and Muslim nations to forget the events of the past, particularly the Gulf crisis, and stressed the need for learning lessons from such events to avoid their recurrence in the future.

In a telephone interview with Dr. Ensour, who is now attending the Organisation of Islamic Conference Foreign Ministers' meeting being held here, he said he

had emphasised, during his talks with his counterparts, the need for creating an effective mechanism to contain such crises and avoid their escalation.

Dr. Ensour said that the Gulf crisis still casts its shadow on the meetings and that all participating delegations worked hard to prevent any polarisations that are designed to enhance divisions among the Muslim nations.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

★ Exhibition of traditional embroideries and hand-made items at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.

Al Fuhels Cultural Festival

★ Lecture, in Arabic, on "Immigration from Fuhels" by Khaled Munezel at the festival's site in Al Fuhels City — 5:30 p.m.
★ Poetry recited by Jordanian poets Abdullah Radwan, Yousef Abdul Aziz and Ali Al Fozza at the festival's site — 7:15 p.m.
★ Concert by Jordanian singer Bishara Al Rahadi at the Latine Church in Al Fuhels — 9:30 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Freedom is not one-way street

THE KIDNAPPING of the French national, Jerome Leyraud, in Beirut Thursday, the same day Britain's John McCarthy was freed from captivity, can be easily described as a conspiracy to sabotage the hostage-release process, as indeed the Lebanese were saying yesterday. The new kidnapping can also be seen as a blow to the efforts of the Lebanese government to reestablish order and security in the country after so many years of civil strife, bloody war and hostage taking.

As U.S. President George Bush put it Aug. 7, there is a needless cruelty to hostage holders and their actions, especially when they play the game of "imminent releases" and do not deliver. But the issue goes beyond just the Western hostages held in Lebanon, since there are many Lebanese and Palestinians held hostage in Israel in direct connection with the Westerners and a number of Israelis held by the Islamic Jihad group, and thousands of other Palestinians held in Israeli jails for no reason than standing up to the occupation of their homeland and repressive practices against their fellow countrymen.

The problem of Western hostages, needless to say, goes beyond the borders of Lebanon.

Iran has a big role in it, since the Islamic Republic has had a score to settle with the West. However, it was mostly the Arab-Lebanese Shiites, long the underdog in pro-Western, pre-war Lebanon, who ultimately took it on themselves to wage the battle against the West in Beirut and the Israelis in the south of Lebanon. In the process hundreds of Palestinians and Shiite Lebanese ended up in Israeli detention camps. Shiite leaders were kidnapped by the Israelis from their homes. Furthermore the Shiites have claimed that those kidnapped were spies. This could be totally false, as many of the hostages are long-time friends of the Arabs and their causes. The West, especially the U.S., are the strategic allies of Israel. The Americans provide Israel with the funds to sustain its survival, with the weapons that guarantee it an edge over the Arabs and with political cover that enable it to deny the Palestinians and the Lebanese their rights. The hostages, as fellow human beings, all have our sympathy. They should be released without delay. Likewise, hostages in Israeli jails should also be released. The much sought-after peace in the region cannot be a one-way street. Confidence-building measures should be enhanced from all directions. If any, the strong and mighty should take the initiative. The West in particular should put enough pressure on Israel to start releasing the Palestinians and the Lebanese held in Israeli jails as a precursor to releasing all other hostages.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

FAILURE on the part of the Islamic foreign ministers conference to reach a consensus over the need for lifting the embargo on Iraq should not deter the Arab countries from embarking on an initiative of their own to end the sufferings of the Iraqi people, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday. It is unreasonable to see the year-old Gulf crisis still adversely affecting Arab and Islamic relations, and it is unacceptable to see the Arabs resigned to their fate of divisions and in total disarray at a time when the Israelis and the Americans continued to concert their plans with regard to the Gulf issue and the Middle East problem the daily said. A call by Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour on the Islamic countries to join hands and end differences and save the Palestinian and Iraqi people reflected an earlier call several months ago by His Majesty King Hussein who said Jordan was opening its arms for the Arab countries and turning a new leaf in inter-Arab relations, the paper noted. There is an urgent need for the Arab countries to meet now and end the process of starving the Iraqi people and there is an urgent need for the Arabs to meet and discuss their next move in the face of the ongoing Middle East peace efforts, the paper stressed. It said that nothing can be achieved in the interest of the Arab countries in the absence of coordination of stands and solidarity in the true sense of the word.

Al Dustour daily criticised the Western nations for condoning Turkey's military operations inside Iraqi territory in pursuit of Kurdish rebels. Such attitude on the part of the Western capitals is a moral scandal for the statesmen of the West and for the Western forces which are stationed a few miles from the fields of operations, the paper said. While the Western countries brag about their concern over the Kurdish people's rights and justify their presence in Iraqi territory on that assumption, they allow the Turks not only to invade a neighbouring country, but also to attack Kurdish camps and their residents who are supposedly under Western protection, the paper noted. Many people in the West and the East had thought that the presence of the Western forces in northern Iraq was a manifestation of the Western nations' concern over the fate of the Kurds, but are now disillusioned when they see the Western forces paving the ground for the Turkish assault, the paper continued. The Turkish air raids on the Kurds and the continuing ground attacks on the Kurdish strongholds expose the truth about the Western nations' real intentions and emphasise the fact that the West is adopting a double standard policy in all matters and in a way that can best serve its interests.

Feeding democracy

By Safwan Bataineh

CAN democracy put food on our tables? Apparently not, according to research conducted on the links between democracy and economic growth. The research has turned up scant evidence that democracy can support or accelerate the process of wealth creation. The only casualty, in fact, exists in the other direction. Rising standards of living intensify demands for increased liberties while poverty breeds intolerance and paves the way for authoritarianism. Thus the dual nature of the challenge facing the government: economic growth, which must be considered as the number one economic objective, has to be pursued both for its own sake and in order to preserve democracy, a long-cherished political objective. This is a clear vindication for the argument that Jordan's economic and political issues are fundamentally intertwined and must be treated inseparably by means of the wider concepts of political economy and within the guidelines of a clear overall policy.

This argument has been made repeatedly and forcefully at the highest levels in Jordan. Yet, successive governments have continued to produce jaded renditions of the laundry list that passes for a governmental manifesto: a collection of often contradictory statements, each prepared separately by the relevant ministry, and an assortment of wishful proclamations that makes fitting reading only for Santa Claus. Lacking coherent policies and armed with no more than a trite and frag-

mented agenda, governments then proceed to tackle cases and problems as they spring up and to find quick and simple solutions for them in light of the day's mood, while long-term problems continue to fester and become more intractable than ever.

There is cause for guarded optimism, however, as the new generation politicians take over the cabinet posts, replacing cliquism with party politics and bringing fresh enthusiastic vigor to where cynicism often prevailed. And although the manifesto and early statements of the new cabinet offer little relief from short-termism, the manner by which Prime Minister Taher Masri has chosen the members of his cabinet and the speedy revival of the Economic Advisory Council betray the man's commitment to open and impartial government and his willingness to draw upon the experience and knowledge of the best in Jordan.

Paradoxically, feeding democracy with economic growth can be made a doubly cumbersome task by democracy itself, simply because many of the right growth policies are no vote-getters. Therefore, it will take a determined self-assured cabinet (and a progressive central bank) to pursue long-term policies despite numerous short-term hazards. On paper, the present government looks very capable of following such a path. With almost no hidden skeletons in its collective closet, and featuring some stalwart free marketeers in the key economic posts, this government should have no problem facing up to

Parliament and even converting its members, who are clearly not versed in economic affairs, to the teachings of market-based economics.

The success or failure of the government will hinge on the speedy implementation of effective growth policies that may bear fruit long after present ministers have vacated their seats. Undoubtedly, the government will waste no time in putting together detailed and comprehensive sets of policies that will serve as a rigid guidelines for present and future cabinets. These policies will be based on relevant and proven models and will pronounce economic growth as the overriding national priority, subordinating all other objectives and considerations to it. They will not be mere excerpts from IMF and World Bank memorandums but rather the product of intensive brain-storming sessions involving ministers, general secretaries, department heads as well as members of the Economic Advisory Council.

Once these policies have been understood and approved by the entire cabinet, certain ministers will no longer feel the urge to splash the front pages with their own heroic, panacea measures, which make them sound like alchemists on the election trails, but will instead communicate government's policies to the public. They will address the essence of our economic malaise and not the symptoms, replacing clever "solutions" with hard-nosed reforms. Never again, for example, will we hear of solutions for unemployment

that are bound to aggravate the problem in the long-run, but will hear instead about reforms designed to expand the economy and its uses of productive resources. Concepts like self-sufficiency, which can be achieved in both riches and poverty, will be dropped from our economic jargon in favour of such things as increased production, higher productivity, and improved competitiveness of exports.

In implementation, the government will be tough and uncompromising, heeding neither the calls of special interest groups nor the temptation of patronage. It will take a hard look at the size and efficacy of the public sector and then put in motion a radical restructuring designed to produce a lean and responsive bureaucracy whose main role is to support economic activities rather than generate them. The government will recognise that no easy solutions exist for complex and intractable problems. Only drastic surgery will be prescribed for chronic and structural defects.

It is never easy to do the right thing and not receive acclaim for it. But then the high office was never meant to be anything other than a heavy moral burden. The race for economic growth is a race against time and other hard working nations. At stake is nothing less than the future prosperity of our children. So the highest reward a public servant can receive for all his tough decisions is the satisfaction of knowing that he has given his children and their playmates a fighting chance for a better future.



Letter From Geneva

New grounds covered at Geneva human rights panel

By Waleed Sadi

GENEVA — The 43rd session of the U.N. Human Rights subcommission on the prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities commenced its meeting here Sunday with a big bang. The newly elected chairman of the human rights group, Mr. Louis Joinet, a French national, threw a bombshell at his opening speech when he announced a series of policy measures that he intended to take in order to make the subcommission more effective and relevant. This immediately drew strong reactions from the members of the subcommission who insisted on reflecting more on the new and revolutionary ideas that Mr. Joinet had just introduced before they could be adopted.

The new policy guidelines would streamline the agenda of the committee and combine issues under one heading. He also took issue with the U.S. position that the committee has grown to be redundant and may have to be phased out if it did not stick to its original mandate which is to establish standards for human rights instead of turning into a mini-U.N. general assembly where every subject under the sun is discussed. The controversies that have already been introduced to this session will surely make this year's meetings a turning point in the evolution of this U.N. human rights forum.

Mr. Joinet is an old hand in the human rights field and a very devout believer in the cause. His endeavours to transform the subcommission into a more dynamic human rights organ will surely receive support and understanding from the members who share his convictions. The speech of Mr. Jan Martenson, the U.N. undersecretary general for human rights at the starting session also contained many thought-provoking ideas that promise to stimulate the thinking of the committee and energise the debate in it.

"In the aftermath of the military action (in the Gulf)," Mr. Martenson said, "concrete steps were taken to protect human rights including the right to life of vulnerable groups in that same area." "These humanitarian initiatives," he went on to say, "demonstrated once again that a state does not have an unfettered right to treat its people as only it sees fit." From that proposition, the U.N. undersecretary general deduced that "it is clear that international law is being separated from their responsibilities to respect human rights."

"One thing has emerged from the events of this year," he concluded, "a reaffirmation of the importance of human rights to the peoples of the

world and to internal relations."

Of course in this context the U.N. undersecretary general did not break any new grounds, since it is well established in human rights jurisprudence that state sovereignty is no longer accepted as a pretext for refusing the perusal of the human rights record of any state. What is possibly new about Mr. Martenson's statement is that it was linked with the events of the Gulf crisis and not to other areas where human rights issues are also figuring highly.

Iraq is once again earmarked for extensive debate on its human rights record in this forum as well. Lacking friends and supporters, Baghdad is ill-prepared to defend itself yet again before this U.N. organ. The human rights situation in the occupied territories will surely be discussed and dealt with in a rather routine manner as has been the case-year in and year out. The responsibility for this undramatic treatment of Palestinian human rights lies with the Arab spokesmen whose interventions are usually low key and uneventful.

Meanwhile, the Dutch delegate to the meetings of the working group on contemporary forms of slavery — child prostitution, child labour, women trafficking, sale of children for organ transplants purposes and other related issues — continued to defend her government tolerance of prostitution. Based on the principle of self-determination, she said, women in the exercise of their right to self-determination have a right to engage in prostitution or exploitation. This marks the first time ever in the annals of the U.N. system that the principle of self-determination has been invoked in such situations and as pretext to legalise prostitution under "voluntary conditions."

What was even more astonishing to hear at the session of this working group is the shocking revelations made possible by several non-governmental groups (NGOs) that millions of women are being trafficked from one part of the developing world to the other and beyond for prostitution purposes. Even more horrific to hear was the disclosure that thousands of children from developing countries get trafficked to developed countries in order to remove their organs for Western countries recipients. Such charges have yet to be established but the reports that thousands of Brazilian children have ended up in Europe for this purpose is drawing much demand for closer examination and investigation by the U.N. system and the Interpol.

The Week in Print

Peace process under fire

PEACE in the Middle East, the Islamic foreign ministers meeting and domestic issues were the dominant topics in last week's daily newspapers in Jordan.

Discussing Jordan's participation in the coming peace negotiations, columnist Fahd Al Fanek said that all the Arab countries have agreed to enter into negotiations with Israel with the purpose of regaining sovereignty over the usurped Arab lands and it is Israel which is dragging its feet to the conference because it is in a position to impose its will on the others.

He said Jordan cannot but accept the concept of negotiating with Israel along with the other Arab parties because to refuse negotiations means isolating the Kingdom from the rest of the world. He said that Jordan cannot commit political and national suicide by refusing talks that might lead to an end to the long-standing conflict in the region. Without participating in the coming peace negotiations, the writer noted, Jordan would be leaving to the others the matter of shaping up the future of the region.

A guest columnist in Al Ra'i said that there can be no peace without the participation of the (PLO) which represents the Palestinian people and there can be no success for the coming negotiations if Israel persisted in implementing its settlement programmes and refuses to recognise the Palestinian people's rights.

Ziyad Abu Mahfouz, a Muslim Brotherhood member of the Lower House of Parliament, said that the coming negotiations will clearly be under the hegemony of the American-Israeli alliance and the Arabs will be in a weak position only accepting what will be dictated to them. Under such circumstances the outcome of the peace negotiations will be a recipe for disaster for the Middle East since the Arabs cannot demand and get their legitimate rights, the writer noted.

The writer's views were backed by Tareq Masarweh, the leading columnist in Al Ra'i daily who said that "we will be deceiving ourselves if we believe that a peace conference can be staged without the Palestinians." Without the Palestinians and their representatives, there can be no success for the peace process but what can ensue is another Camp David accord, said the columnist. He urged the Palestinians to hold on to their rights in the land and in the process of representation at

the coming peace conference.

Fakhri Kaware, a columnist who writes for Al Ra'i daily said that as long as there was democracy in this country, people have the right to air their views with regard to political stands affecting their future. He said that the Arab regimes are in a weak position and can only succumb to Washington's wishes of entering into negotiations with Israel which will attain its selfish ambitions from the coming conference.

The writer, a democratic member of the Lower House, said that the man in the street should be in a position to voice his views clearly with regard to the coming conference and should be able to say whether the conference would achieve the aspired peace and security for the future generations.

This gloomy view about the coming conference is reflected also in an article by Arafat Hijazi who writes for Sawt Al Shaab daily. The writer said that no one believes that Israel is working for peace and all that is happening now is that which clearly indicates Israel's total confidence that the Arabs are capitulating and have no power after the crushing of the Iraqi military power. In Israel, people and politicians alike believe that all the Arabs have been defeated with the defeat of Iraq and they believe that any peace should be in the Israeli style, serving Israeli interests, the writer noted.

For this reason, he said, the Israelis are making demands with regard to the representation of the Palestinian people and are demanding that Jerusalem is not subject to negotiations.

A columnist in Al Dustour daily reflected on the pitiable Arab situation and said that the Palestine question has been forgotten by the Arab regimes for a long time and those Arabs who colluded with Western nations against Iraq bear a major share of the responsibility for the present situation.

Muna Shukair said that the coming peace negotiations are to be held in the absence of a strategic balance between the Arabs and Israel and at a time when the Western forces are stationed on many parts of Arab land and the Iraqi military power crushed. A big share of the responsibility for the present disarray in Arab ranks lies with those Arab leaders still mingling among us and still collaborating with the American and other Western forces to strike against Iraq, the writer noted.

Not a single voice came out

from the Gulf region in defence of Jerusalem and the rights of the Palestinian people, neither did we hear an official voice from Egypt demanding that America stop its atrocities against Iraq and the Palestinians, the writer added.

Turning to the Islamic foreign ministers meeting in Istanbul, columnist Abdul Rahim Omar said that it was painful to see the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries helping the Western nations tighten the noose around the Iraqi people who are facing death and starvation. The writer said that the Istanbul meeting reflects the same ideas of the United States which had been imposing an embargo on the Iraqi people.

When the U.S. imposed the blockade, it did that while realising that all those countries surrounding Iraq are Islamic countries on which it can count to implement its desires and strangle the Muslims of Iraq, said the writer. He said that Washington has realised that Arab-Islamic relations were so weak that it can easily impose its will on any of them and on them altogether at any time.

For Salameh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily, the Istanbul meeting constituted a second test for the Islamic regimes which represent hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world. The first test came during the Gulf crisis when the Islamic countries failed to support an Islamic country and chose instead to side by the aggressors, said Ekour. Now the Muslim countries have a chance to stop further sufferings in Iraq and can lift the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people. This is a second test for the Islamic countries, and Muslims around the world can only watch and judge on the results, the writer added.

Turning attention to domestic issues in Jordan, a guest columnist in Al Ra'i daily focused attention on the utility of setting up more universities in the country at a time when the courses they give do not serve the needs of the labour market and when everybody realises that the graduates can only increase the problem of unemployment.

Abdul Rahim Mollus said that the establishment of a large number of universities and community colleges does not augur well for the future, partly because these institutions were set up by businessmen who formed share-holding companies determined to

make profit regardless of the nature of service they offer to the public, and partly because a large number of university-trained people will not find work. The writer proposed the creation of a vocational training university instead of the numerous academic universities, with the purpose of creating a generation of men and women capable of building a country.

Columnist Fahd Al Fanek focused attention on the return to Jordan from the Gulf region of 270,000 Jordanians and Palestinians and the arrival in the country of 130,000 Iraqis. He said that the presence of an additional 400,000 people in Jordan which has very meagre resources is a heavy burden on the national economy and the Jordanian people themselves. Only a minority of the returnees possesses large sums of money to start businesses and production projects while the rest have nothing and no skills, the writer noted.

He said that Israel gets \$100,000 for each settler from the Western nations, while Jordan is getting nothing for the absorption of this large number of extra people.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily drew attention to the fact that government-owned cars with red licence plates were not being used solely to offer services to the government, but rather to offer services to senior government officials. He said that in the absence of strict controls by the police and the Audit Bureau such cars continue to operate at well long after office hours have ended and specially at night.

Nazih Qusous said such cars are often seen at the start of the scholastic year transporting children of senior officials to school and back and such cars are also used to transport directors in the ministers' office and secretaries in the ministry home and to work. He demanded stricter government control over the use of government vehicles to rationalise energy consumption and to safeguard public interest.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily focused attention on the restaurants and hotels in Jordan. These days the country is flooded with hundreds of thousands of expatriates and vacationers filling hotels and restaurants and despite a fixed rate set by the Ministry of Supply, most of the restaurants and food shops continue to exploit the visitors.

Afghan peace process progressing slowly

KABUL (Agency) — Efforts to reach a political solution to the 13-year-old Afghan civil war are slowly making progress, according to a United Nations envoy.

"I remain optimistic that the process of any settlement, the process is moving forward irreversibly," Benon Sevan, the U.N. secretary-general's personal representative on Afghanistan, told reporters.

"It is still, however, a slow process," he said after an overnight stay in Kabul where he met President Najibullah and officials of his Soviet-backed government. He did not elaborate.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar proposed a five-point peace plan in May which envisages a ceasefire and a transitional administration leading to elections.

Some radical guerrilla parties have rejected the plan.

Most guerrilla parties, which met Pakistani and Iranian officials in Islamabad late last month, agreed the plan could serve as a possible basis for a settlement and decided to seek clarifications.

The next tripartite meeting is set for Aug. 27-29 in Tehran.

U.N. sources in Kabul said the main obstacle to progress was a psychological barrier among the Mujahideen guerrillas to talks with Mr. Najibullah or members of his government and ruling talks with Mr. Najibullah or members of his government and ruling Watan Party.

Almost all guerrilla parties publicly refuse to talk to Mr. Najibullah. But some guerrilla leaders have secretly met Mr. Najibullah's representatives in recent months, Western diplomats and guerrilla sources have said.

No details of Mr. Sevan's talks in Kabul were available. The talks were mainly to consider the options available and to assess the scope for compromise, the U.N. sources said.

Mr. Sevan is expected to return to Kabul in late August or early September, they said.

A guerrilla commander was killed by a rocket while fighting government forces in eastern Afghanistan, guerrilla sources in Pakistan said Thursday.

They said commander Ziaul Gul of the Ittihad-I-Islami guerrilla party was killed and four of his comrades were wounded Wednesday at Surkhak in government forces tried to open the blocked highway between the capital Kabul and the main eastern town of Jalalabad.

Intense fighting has raged in the area since last week when the Mujahideen guerrillas said they had blocked the Kabul-Jalalabad highway as a prelude to an assault on Jalalabad itself.

Afghan authorities said Wednesday their forces had killed 13 Saudi supporters of the rebels in battles on the highway on Tuesday.

Kabul and the Western-backed guerrillas have both claimed victories in the recent battles.

Afghan rebel news services Thursday reported exchange of heavy artillery fire between the two sides around Jalalabad and the nearby Darunta and Samarkand areas.

Hostage crisis tentacles reach far from Lebanon

THE HAGUE (AP) — The web ensnaring Western hostages in Lebanon extends to Shiite Muslim prisoners held by Germany, Palestinians detained by Israel and a decade-old financial dispute between Iran and the United States.

British journalist John McCarthy, freed Thursday after five years of captivity in Lebanon, said he carried a letter from his captors, Islamic Jihad, proposing an exchange of all Western and Lebanese hostages and prisoners held in Lebanon and Israel. The letter was to be delivered to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The hostage issue was clouded further Thursday when an underground group claimed it had kidnapped a Frenchman in Lebanon to portend Mr. McCarthy's release, and would execute him if more hostages were freed.

The claim seemed to signal a split between those hostage-taking groups in Beirut who seek to end the crisis and hard-liners who want to hold onto the captives until they can achieve freedom for Arab detainees held by Israel.

Israel says it is willing to release the approximately 375 Lebanese prisoners held in Israel or by its South Lebanon Army (SLA) surrogates in southern Lebanon. But it demands the release of seven Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon since 1982.

The Lebanese held by Israel include Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, a Shiite cleric kidnapped by Israeli agents in Lebanon in 1989 as a bargaining chip to obtain the release of the seven Israelis.

Until now, Islamic Jihad's demands also have included the release of an estimated 10,000 Palestinians detained in the occupied territories for anti-Israeli resistance. Israel has flatly rejected this.

The Israeli political scene still echoes from the 1985 exchange of 1,550 Palestinian detainees for three Israeli captives.

The trade evoked wide-

spread grassroots criticism as being disproportionate, and it has been claimed that the freed Palestinians became the core of the intifada.

But Israel's military credo is to do everything possible to obtain the release of its own captured soldiers.

Israel's chief hostage expert, senior defence ministry official Uri Lubrani, believes that Iran will not intervene in the hostage issue unless it gets something in return.

Another conflict stems from Iran's demand that assets held by the United States be released before it will pressure the kidnappers assumed to hold most Western hostages in Lebanon.

U.S. officials at the Iran-United States claims tribunal in the Hague contend that Washington no longer holds the billions of dollars in Iranian assets it froze in the wake of the 1979 U.S. embassy seizure in Tehran.

The only major issues still outstanding before the arbitration panel are Iranian claims for weaponry and other military equipment belonging to or ordered by Iran before its 1979 revolution, the officials say.

Iran has set the value of those claims at \$12 billion, a figure Washington discounts as highly inflated.

Most of the 12 Westerners still missing in Lebanon — six Americans, three Britons, two Germans and an Italian — are believed held by pro-Iranian groups like Islamic Jihad.

On July 19, Islamic Jihad issued a veiled threat against the two Germans, warning of "grave consequences" unless Lebanese Mohammad and Abbas Hamadi were freed from German cells. Islamic Jihad accused the German government of torturing the Hamadis.

On July 24, a group calling itself Holy Warriors for Freedom, also believed composed of pro-Iranian Shiites, threatened "extremely negative action" unless Germany provided details on the condition of the Hamadis.

Talabani: Jordan is an example

(Continued from page 1)

Foreign Minister Safa Ghayr Thursday said Turkey would uphold Iraq's territorial integrity.

Turkish forces had advanced 10

kilometers into northern Iraq Thursday, a senior military officer said. The raids followed a PKK attack on a border post last Sunday in which nine soldiers and a village guard were killed.

New abduction seen to delay

(Continued from page 1)

at 6:30 p.m. (1530 GMT).

Security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Leyraud did not put up any resistance while he was being led to a waiting car.

It was the first abduction of a Westerner in Beirut since Oct. 1989. Foreigners had begun to trickle back, and Germans in Beirut said their embassy told them not to go out at night and to keep in close touch with friends. The German and other Western embassies refused to confirm if any security precautions were ordered.

"Jerome Leyraud's abduction yesterday was an assassination of peace in Beirut and an abduction

the joy that has prevailed in Beirut," said Mr. Khatib.

He told a news conference at the interior ministry there was a clue in the case but would not disclose what it was, beyond saying the situation resulted from a battle "between intelligence agencies" and "Lebanon was the victim."

Jean Pormi, the vice president of Doctors of the World, flew into Beirut Friday.

"We have no information so far. We shall contact the civilian and military authorities as well as the French embassy," Mr. Pormi said in an airport statement.

Fifteen Frenchmen previously were taken hostage in Lebanon. One died in captivity and the last three were freed in May 1988.

Playing peacemaker in Gaza

By Katia Sabet

GAZA STRIP — Even if a Mideast peace conference is finally convened, will it come in time to save a people marked by 40 years of repression and dire poverty? While the diplomatic world, braced by Syria's acceptance of the conference, was trying to coax Israel to the negotiating table, Palestinians in the occupied territories had little to rejoice about. More land is being seized by the Israeli government, and violence continues.

On the terrace of the Beach Club in Gaza, looking out at the silvery sea and a deserted beach, a group of young people talk.

"Today at Khan Younes we had to sweat to keep a 12-year-old from being arrested," says one.

"The soldiers were advised that it would be better to let him go, that there would be violence if they insisted on detaining him."

"But one of the Israeli was young, a raw recruit, he didn't want to hear anything," adds a young woman. "A crowd began to gather... he really felt the heat," continues the first speaker. "Finally his superior arrived and smoothed things over. They took the kid away, but he doesn't have an ID yet so they'll release him tonight."

The young men and women sitting around the table drinking beer could be taken for affluent youth whose only worry was where to end the evening. In fact before getting up at 5 a.m. the next morning to face other life-threatening challenges, they drive home through streets stilled by curfew, protected somewhat by the United Nations, sign pointed on the side of their vehicle.

No one knows life in the refugee camps better than these U.N. refugee affairs officers. Every day, driving around in constant radio contact with their chief, they tour the eight overcrowded camps in the Gaza Strip, always there when things start to heat up between the refugees and the Israeli army, stepping in sometimes physically to prevent acts of violence, trying if at all possible to prevent the soldiers from overreacting when they are ready to lash out too forcefully at victims who are too weak. The work of the young U.N. volunteers has trained them to avoid mixing personal feelings with the job. They only allow themselves a hint of disgust when they hear about children badly beaten, unarmed demonstrators systematically wounded in the legs, and the soldiers' violent intrusions in the middle of the night in the huts in which perhaps 10 or 15 Palestinian refugees are crammed. Any excuse will do: a search for a "terrorist," a simple request to check identity papers.

On the table at the Beach Club a two-way radio begins to crackle: Volunteers are required to go to the Khan Younes camp, where a volatile situation has developed. Two officers rush to their vehicle and drive off into the night. Their presence is the only protection that the camps' inhabitants have against the daily violence of the occupation, but the outside world knows little about it. They have no authority and sometimes just being there keeps the worst from happening. Their status as U.N. officials does not protect them from being exposed to physical and verbal abuse. J., English, had his thumb broken by an Israeli soldier. R., Spanish,

was punched in the face. C., Italian, had guns pointed at him several times, and soldiers demolished his car with clubs. R., Austrian, is recovering from a stab wound in the neck. D., Polish, had to endure an exhibitionist display by an Israeli soldier. The soldiers act in the knowledge that they will not be punished.

"It's the nighttime raids that cause the greatest damage," says Dr. Iyad Serraj, director of the Gaza Centre for Mental Health. "The stress caused is almost unbearable, and it affects adults as well as children. The children are, of course, the most vulnerable."

Mary Khass, who organizes children's classes sponsored by a joint U.N.-Quaker Mission project, has seen children cry with fear. "The children in the camps live in terror of an Israeli 'sweep.' A sweep in which, under the best of circumstances, a family member will be beaten or arrested, when the whole family is not roughed up," she explains. "Children are the silent and terrified witnesses to this violence, and little by little they become, in turn, the seeds of more violence and instability. You can see it in their play, where they imitate the adults who terrorise them and the abnormal situation that they can't adjust to. You can see it in their behaviour which goes from extreme aggressiveness to apathy, in their reactions to sudden noise, in the instinctive gestures of self-protection when someone approaches too quickly, in the loss of appetite, the nightmares that they have."

"There are countless cases of bedwetting and nighttime panic," comments Dr. Serraj, "and they occur in children as well as adults. These are in addition to the



Iyad Serraj

psychological disorders that afflict a high proportion of adults who, having been physically traumatised, enter a process of victimisation that can last for years. These people truly suffer, because their trauma is repeated daily."

Dr. Serraj also mentions cases of speech impairment or mental illness stemming from the same cause. "Further," he states, "one of the direct results of the Israeli violence in the camps is the violence that the Palestinians inflict on themselves: aggressiveness caused by frustration and impotent rage finds an outlet in various criminal acts, flaunting all forms of authority, including parental authority, and finally, suicide."

In addition to those who are victimised by fear and stress are the countless numbers of people



A young boy wounded by Israeli "plastic" bullets receives treatment at a rehabilitation centre in Gaza. Agency, (WNL)

who have been physically injured during the confrontations in the Gaza Strip. Here, too, children are the first victims. "A very high number of children suffer from cerebral palsy because their mothers were exposed to tear gas when they were pregnant," says Jerry Shawwa, a young American married to a Palestinian. She has plunged into refugee work sponsored by the Benevolent Society for the Gaza Strip, founded by her husband's family. In the Child Development Centre which she directs, Ms. Shawwa has found that one child in 20 suffers from malformation or developmental disabilities caused by living conditions — overpopulation, lack of basic needs, malnutrition or prenatal trauma.

There are also the wounded of the uprising who have been shot, pummeled with rifle bullets or clubbed. The Israelis reply to the stones of the youth of Gaza with bullets that they call plastic bullets but that are real bullets encased in plastic. Because the lengthening list of intifada fatal casualties — about 700 hundred — is a blot on Israel's image, the soldiers respond to a shower of stones by shooting at legs. The number of young men, young women and children handicapped in their lower limbs is so high that a factory was opened in Gaza to make artificial limbs and wheelchairs. The plant, also sponsored by the Benevolent Society, is managed by another member of the Shawwa family, Ali.

"Unfortunately," says Mr. Shawwa, "there are no facilities in Gaza to help handicapped people begin to live a normal life. The streets are in disrepair, and the houses in the camps don't have the floor surfaces that would allow people in wheelchairs to get around. In addition many of the young wounded won't come to see us because they are ashamed to be seen in such a condition and are too proud to ask for an artificial limb that they can't pay for."

As a result, Ms. Shawwa asked for the services of a psychologist to persuade young victims to accept aid that the entire community feels it owes them. The job was filled by Nago Humbert, a consultant to the World Health Organisation, for whom the experience was an awakening. "Initially," he wrote, "the idea of

sending a mental health consultant into an area where there is daily violence and there are no surgeons, anaesthetists or radiologists seemed inappropriate." Later, in contact with the Palestinian reality, where "the personal experience is at the crossroads of the historic experience," and where "physical suffering hides a much deeper wound," explains Dr. Humbert, the importance of his role became obvious to him. "The suffering of the Palestinians in the occupied territories is not measured by instant photos of violence between the child stone-throwers and the soldier-guardians of the establishment. This is only the tip of the iceberg: it obscures the true suffering, the psychosomatic effects of 40 years of wandering, exclusion, repression, loss, misery, separation and death."

To try to explain the festering wound of the refugee camps with-

in the context of a modern, civilised nation, Dr. Serraj turns to psychiatry. "The Jewish culture is full of psychopathologies," he says. "To understand Israel one must examine the history of the Jewish people, a history of persecution and suffering... their fear is transformed into a paranoia in which everyone and everything that is not Jewish is potentially against the Jew and probably at some point will attempt to attack and destroy them. Zionist theories contain the message of the birth of the new Jew, the victorious one... Hatred of the Nazis has led them to identify with the Nazis and to act the same way toward us. It's the same pattern that you see when a child is abused by his father and then later he himself becomes an abuser. That is how the cycle of hate and violence is perpetuated." — World News Link.



In the factory operated by the Benevolent Society, workers inspect an artificial limb. The plant, which also makes wheelchairs, was opened to meet the needs of the large number of men, women, and children whose legs have been injured by Israeli bullets. (WNL)

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Cuban beats U.S. fighter in Pan Am boxing match

HAVANA (R) — The long-anticipated first brawl between the United States and Cuba in the boxing competition at the Pan American Games ended with the U.S. boxer on the seat of his pants.

At least symbolically, that's where the United States has been for most of the games which end on Aug. 18.

Facing possibly losing its title as top medal winner, boxing is one of the key areas where the U.S. may still be able to make up the difference in a medals short-fall which on the sixth day of the games leaves them 20 golds behind Cuba.

The U.S.-Cuba matchup — the second of eight fights on the night — was a light flyweight contest between Rogelio Marcelo of Cuba and Bradley Martinez.

Martinez, hit by four unanswered lefts in the opening seconds of the bout, looked baffled by fighting a southpaw.

He tried to pick off the left-handed punches but Marcelo — always swarming over his opponent — landed almost at will and dropped Martinez, 21, with a short left hook to the head with about 45 seconds left in the first round.

Referee David Sandoval of Mexico immediately stopped the fight and ran over to take Martinez's mouthpiece out.

The 3500 crowd, many waving cardboard hand fans in the sweltering heat, greeted the introduction of their fighter with a roar. When the referee stopped the fight, the crowd exploded, waving Cuban flags while the national festive beat of a rumba blared through the arena.

"I hit him with a short left," Marcelo, 26, said. "He had his defense. It wasn't as easy as it looked, but I had him on the defensive."

Kenny Loehr, the head coach of the U.S. boxing team, said, "The Cubans are the best in the world, but (Martinez) couldn't get going. He let the guy take over from the start ... Martinez was surprised and shocked. He's never knocked down before (in 130 fights)."

"Everything happened so

quick," said Martinez.

"He hits pretty hard. The gloves here are pretty small. It's like getting hit with a bare fist. He came out right away. He didn't waste any time."

Meanwhile an ugly brawl between Canadian and Mexican baseball players soured the mood of the Pan-American Games Thursday, overshadowing glittering sprint double victories by local Cuban heroine Liliana Allen and Brazil's Robson Caetano da Silva.

Allen, whose striking looks and flowing black hair have made her a darling of the home crowd, crowned her 100 metres gold win Monday with an emphatic win in the 200 metres.

Lanky Brazilian Caetano da Silva followed suit in the men's 200 metres to claim the men's prestigious sprint double.

Allen's win was double sweet for hosts Cuba, racing away at the head of the medals table with 50 golds after six days of competition. The U.S. trailed behind with 28 gold medals and Canada followed with seven.

But the impressive athletics performances, noisily acclaimed by the Olympic Stadium crowd, could not wipe away the bad taste left by the mass brawl that earlier cut short a crucial baseball qualifying game between Canada and Mexico.

Canada's assistant coach John Uppham was taken to hospital with a suspected heart attack. Mexican coach Antonio Polorena was cut in the face and Canadian pitcher David Krug received a possible broken nose in the five-minute free-for-all involving players, officials and coaches from both sides.

Umpires and blue-uniformed Cuban police piled in to separate the brawlers in what was the first incident of its kind in the Aug. 2-18 games in Cuba and one of the worst ever seen in 40 years of Pan-American Games history.

After the kicks and blows, the two delegations traded accusations. Mexican officials said Canadian catcher Alex Andreopoulos provoked batter Alberto Vargas with racial insults, while the Canadians said a

bat was used against their players in the fight.

U.S. umpire Dan Pedersen suspended the game immediately the brawl broke out and Mexico were later declared winners. They had been leading 7-5 at the top of the sixth inning.

One bright spot of the day was the Pan-American record of one minute 58.71 seconds set by reigning champion Ana Fidelia Quirot in the women's 800 metres final. Finishing 10 metres ahead of Alisha Hill of the United States, she added the new victory to the gold she won Monday in the 400 metres.

The silver medalist in the 400 metres, Colombia's Ximena Restrepo, pushed hard for a gold in the 200 metres but had to bow to the superior finishing power of Cuba's Allen.

Making up for what has been a dearth of U.S. athletics victories so far in the games, Jim Driscoll used his experience to win the men's hammer with a throw of 72.78 metres ahead of compatriot Jud Logan and Cuba's Rene Diaz.

Ocky Clark and Terri Davis of the United States won the gold and silver medals in the men's 800 metres final, running a cool tactical race to shut out Tommy Asinga of Surinam.

The pole vault gold went to Pat Manson, also of the U.S., who cleared 5.50 metres, ahead of Canada's Doug Wood.

Cuba's Pedro Rodriguez continued his country's relentless medals march in the weightlifting, sweeping the golds in the snatch, clean-jerk and total in the 90 kilogram category. This brought Cuba's weightlifting gold medal haul so far to 20.

Diane Guthrie won Jamaica's first gold medal of the games in the women's long jump and shot putter Gert Weil heaved Chile onto the gold medal list with a throw of 19.47 metres.

Mexico's Graciela Mendoza took sweet revenge for her disqualification from victory at the last games in Indianapolis in 1987 to win the gold in the 10 kilometre walk. It was Mexico's third gold of the games.

Becker, Edberg and Sampras advance, Lendl falls at ATP Championship

MASON, Ohio (AP) — Top seeded Boris Becker beat an onrushing thunderstorm and moved into the quarterfinals of the \$1.3 million ATP Championship by eliminating Malivai Washington 6-4, 6-4 Thursday.

Defending champion Stefan Edberg and U.S. Open champion Pete Sampras also advanced. But third-seeded Ivan Lendl fell to No. 14 seeded Derrick Rostagno 7-6, 3-5, 6-3.

Edberg, the No. 2 seed, defeated Amos Mansdorf 6-1, 6-2. Sampras, seeded seventh, defeated Wayne Ferreira 6-1, 6-4.

"With the lightning, maybe it wasn't the best idea that the announcer said I was serving at 6-4, 5-4 and the storm was coming in about 10 minutes," Becker said.

"The pressure was already high and it makes it even higher — hurry up, get out of the way."

A late afternoon rain forced the suspension of some doubles matches, but the stadium court was dried out and singles play resumed.

French Open champion Jim Courier ousted Michael Chang

7-5, 6-2 before an evening deluge that washed out the match between fifth-seeded Andre Agassi and No. 12 seed Brad Gilbert.

"I served really well, that was the key," Courier said. "He allowed me to take advantage of his second serve. If he serves a little better, it's a different ballgame."

Lendl, who has been trying to come back from hand surgery, has two tour wins this year, both in February.

"I missed quite a few shots. Mainly, I didn't return his serve," Lendl said. "I either pushed it or missed it. It's hard to win that way."

Lendl said his season has been disappointing, and he's probably been playing below par because he hasn't been playing enough.

"I've always needed to play quite a bit. I missed four months and didn't play," he said.

"And look what happened to some of the guys that took some time off before," such as John McEnroe and Mats Wilander.

"Mine wasn't voluntary, but I didn't get to hit enough balls and

play enough, so I have to make it up."

"It's going to come sooner or later. I wish sooner."

Lendl had surgery for fibrosis on his right hand, which became infected following surgery in May.

"I was lucky to stay in the first set," Rostagno said. "I had some good serves and volleys at the right times, I guess, but I was struggling in the beginning."

But he said he's gained enough confidence recently not to fear a match against top-rated players.

"I'm sure that on a good day I can beat anyone, whereas I used to have doubts and would try to force myself to have a better day than I conceivably could bring out of myself," Rostagno said.

"That's probably the difference. That's why every time I go out or the court now, especially against a top player, I'm not going to give the match away by trying to play too well. I'm going to go ahead and make the play."

The tournament is being played at the Jack Nicklaus Sports Centre near Cincinnati.

Fernandez moves to Albuquerque quarterfinals

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — Second-seeded Gigi Fernandez used a big serve in the clutch to hold off Halle Cioffi 6-4, 7-5 and advanced to the quarterfinals of the Virginia Slims of Albuquerque tournament.

It was an erratic serve by Fernandez through much of the match that helped the unseeded Cioffi stay close.

Fernandez served up her fourth ace of the match to go up 3-2 in the opening set, then broke Cioffi to widen the lead.

But Cioffi broke back when Fernandez double-faulted twice in the seventh game then held to tie it 4-4.

Fernandez was aggressive at the net to win the next two games and the set.

Fernandez, ranked no. 33 in the world, jumped out to a 3-1 lead before Cioffi broke her with winning passing shots. Fernandez had two aces in that game and seven in the match. Fernandez said she should have put the match away at 5-2, and was frustrated that she "couldn't consolidate" her winning games.

Other seeded players also advanced to the quarterfinals.

Top-seeded Julie Halard beat overwhelmed fellow Frenchwoman Noelle Van Lottum, 6-1, 6-1; fourth-seeded Susan Sloane outplayed Tamaka Takagi of Japan, 7-5, 6-4; sixth-seeded Elena Reinach of South Africa defeated Alexia Dechaume of France, 6-1, 2-6, 6-0, and Sandrine Testud of France outlasted Nicole Arendt 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

In the quarterfinals, Halard meets Katrina Adams.

Capriati, Maleeva sisters advance in Canadian Open

TORONTO (Agencies) — Jennifer Capriati raced past Britain's Sara Gomer 6-2 6-3 in a third-round match at the \$500,000 Canadian Open Women's Tennis Championship.

"I play fast," said the third-seeded Capriati after the 50-minute victory. "It's better than having to go three sets."

Gomer was annoyed at letting the American star dictate play so easily.

"The big thing I was disappointed with is that I allowed her to rush me and dominate the pace," said Gomer. A nine-year tour pro ranked number 123 in the world.

Capriati, 15, barely took time to bounce the ball before each serve as she ploughed along. Gomer showed a brief glimmer of hope when she broke for a 3-2 lead in the second set, but Capriati broke in the next game and then again to go up 5-3. Capriati wrapped up the match with a love service game.

Capriati meets ninth-seeded Natalia Zvereva, of the Soviet Union, in the quarterfinals.

Zvereva overcame a first-set challenge from American qualifier Jolene Watanabe before scoring a 7-6 (7-2) 6-0 win.

The Maleeva sisters, second-seeded Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere and younger sister, fourth-seeded Katerina Maleeva, scored easy victories to march one match closer to a semifinal clash.

Maleeva-Fragniere eliminated No. 16 seed Regina Rajchrtova of Czechoslovakia 6-1 6-2. With matching ease, Katerina Maleeva, of Bulgaria, beat No. 12 seed Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan 6-1 6-3.

Maleeva-Fragniere will face

American Amy Frazier, the No. 8 seed, in Friday's quarterfinals. Frazier outlasted compatriot Debbie Graham 6-3 1-6 6-1 to advance.

Katerina Maleeva will take on tenth-seeded Laura Gildemeister, of Peru, who defeated fifth-seeded Nathalie Tauziat, of France, 6-3 4-6 6-4.

Top-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina and sixth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, who both had the day off, will meet in the other quarterfinal.

Capriati, 0-6 against Sabatini, says she and assistant coach Tom Gullikson have been working on counteracting the Argentinian's game, particularly her top-spin shots.

"I don't really play that well against Gaby's style of game," said Capriati. "But I've improved on my topspin. Tom has been working with me a lot on that — he hits topspin to me a lot, and he hits it pretty good."

Despite the fact they are still a round away, the semifinals seemed to have already captured the imagination of some key participants.

The Maleeva sisters, especially Manuela, seemed excited about the prospect of meeting on court.

"Playing one of my sisters in the semis is not so bad," said Manuela, the world's 10th-ranked woman player. "What we don't like is when we meet in the early rounds."

Manuela has played Katerina seven times in her career, including once in a semifinal. She has also faced her youngest sister, Magdalena, once.

She has yet to lose a set to either.

Ivanisevic, Prpic may not play for Yugoslavia

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (AP) — Goran Prpic and Goran Ivanisevic, ranked 16th and 19th on the ATP tour, say they may not play for Yugoslavia in the country's Davis Cup semifinal match against France in late September.

The two players are Croats, and their breakaway republic is engaged in armed conflict with Yugoslav federal forces as well as fighters from the neighbouring

republic of Serbia.

"As things look now, I will not play for this kind of Yugoslavia," Ivanisevic told the Croatian daily newspaper Vjesnik.

Croatia last Thursday advised its athletes to refrain from participating on Yugoslavia national teams in protest against alleged "federal and Serbian aggression" against the second-largest Yugoslav republic.

At least 200 people have died in clashes between Croatian security forces, the federal army and armed Serbs in Croatia since the republic declared independence on June 25.

"In this kind of atmosphere I will not play," said Prpic. "Innocent people dying, and we should not play for Yugoslavia, which is falling to pieces."

Yugoslavia is scheduled to play at France in the Davis Cup semifinals on Sept. 20-22. The defending champion United States plays Germany in Kansas City in the other semifinal.

If Ivanisevic and Prpic refuse to play, Serbian Slobodan Zivjovic would become the team's no. 1 players. Zivjovic has been trying to make a comeback after a series of injuries.

Berger takes provisional pole in Hungarian GP

BUDAPEST (R) — Austrian Gerhard Berger snatched provisional pole position away from McLaren team mate Ayrton Senna in the last seconds of Friday's qualifying session for the Hungarian Grand Prix motor race Sunday.

Senna had held pole position from the moment he ended his first qualifying run, but was pipped by Berger's late burst.

Berger's time of one minute 18.238 seconds, at an average speed of 183kph, was outside the record set last year by Thierry Boutsen in a Williams, and three-tenths of a second faster than Senna's 1:18.549.

The two Ferraris of Frenchman

Alain Prost and Jean Alesi

formed the second row of the provisional grid, ahead of the Williams of Briton Nigel Mansell — winner of the last three Grand Prix — and Riccardo Patrese.

Prost recorded 1:19.325 and Alesi was clocked at 1:19.552.

Patrese had to wait until the closing moments to make his two runs as mechanics worked to repair damage to his car caused in a morning spin. He set his best time on the last timed lap which he completed in 1:20.103.

Senna made first run after 40 minutes, immediately taking provisional pole position and, until Berger's late thrust, looked likely to hold off all his rivals.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
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TRUST YOUR JUDGMENT

Both vulnerable. West deals.
NORTH
♠ J 10 9
♥ 10 9
♦ J 10 8 5 3
♣ 7 6

WEST EAST
♠ Q 7 3 ♠ K 8 6 5 4 2
♥ Q 7 6 5 4 ♥ A K 8 3
♦ Q 8 4 ♦ Void
♣ J 10 ♣ 5 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A
♥ J 2
♦ A K 7 2
♣ A K Q 8 8 3

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass 1♦ Dbl
2♦ Pass 4♦ 5♦
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠
If there is one quality that sets the expert apart from the rest of the bridge world, it is table presence—the ability to "feel" what is going on at the table and how the cards are distributed. As a result, the master will often make a play that stuns the average player. But all that is happening is that the ace is backing his judgment to the hilt, at the risk of being embarrassed.
South's hand was too strong for any action other than a takeout dou-

ble at his first run. Even though the bidding was at four spades by the time it got back, there was no keeping South out of the auction, which ended at five clubs.

Declarer won the first trick perforce and, when both defenders followed to the ace and king of clubs, declarer could claim the contract if diamonds broke 2-1. While that was certainly the most likely distribution (78 percent, to be exact), South's "nose" suggested otherwise. Although East could not be bidding much more than a minimum opening bid, that player had catapulted into four spades despite the fact that both sides were vulnerable. It sounded as if East had a very distributional hand, and what could be more likely than a diamond void?

Even so, it seemed declarer would have to lose two heart tricks and a diamond, and down one would have been the outcome with most players we know at the helm. However, our South decided to back card-reading over mathematics.
Declarer drew the last trump then, before either defender learned anything more about the hand, continued with a low diamond! West could see no reason to go up with the queen, and regrets that decision to this day.

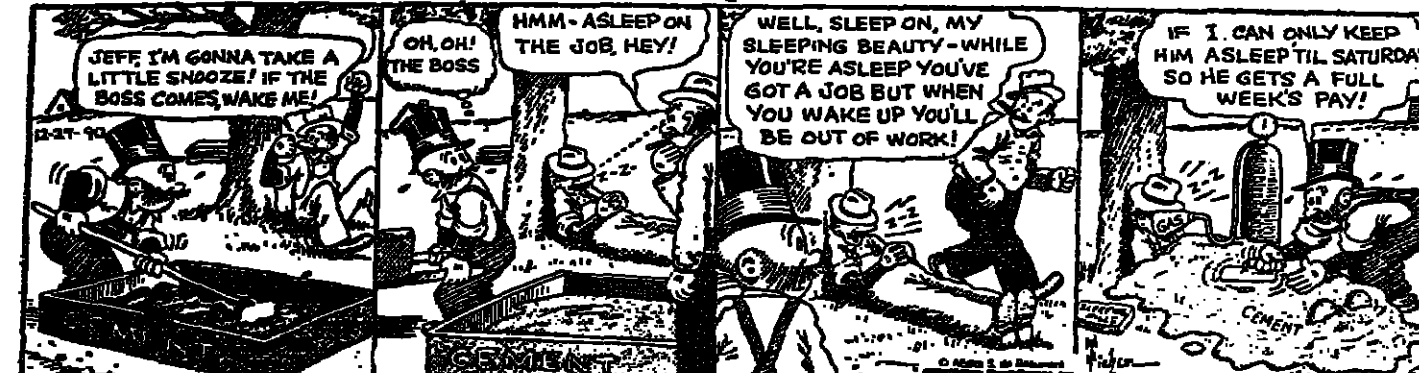
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 10, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Thinking out a new course of action that will provide you with a greater amount of success in the future should include an attitude on your part to show associates special consideration.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your own residence finds most of the action there as concerns your own family so make a point to show you do value the good will of all.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can gain the renewal of your mind in rightness at the services or studies that help you the most and then come to a new agreement with all usual allies.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now find it is essential that you do leave the unimportant conditions on which you have been focusing and get some improved financial arrangement.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take some time out to really enjoy the persons you like the most this day and see that your health and charm are greatly improved as well.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is the moment to make sure you can show your ability to delve into whatever has to do with principles and find ways to exist and keep your mind sharp.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You now find that most every-

one is in the mood to join you in the hobbies and recreations that you and them like so enjoy each others company.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Let those with whom you have any sort of worldly contact see that you are willing to go along with and do those things that can bring you big advancement.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think out that course that can really bring you into some new realm of thought and action that can make your whole existence more delightful.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is the time to make sure that you do think deeply upon whatever is of concern to you and then let your prophetic insight guide the way.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You now are able to find the precise and exact signs to ment which partners would like to engage in with you so be sure to discuss fully all such plans.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You need to show those who have been good to you or can be helpful to you that you are willing to serve their interest as well as you possibly can.

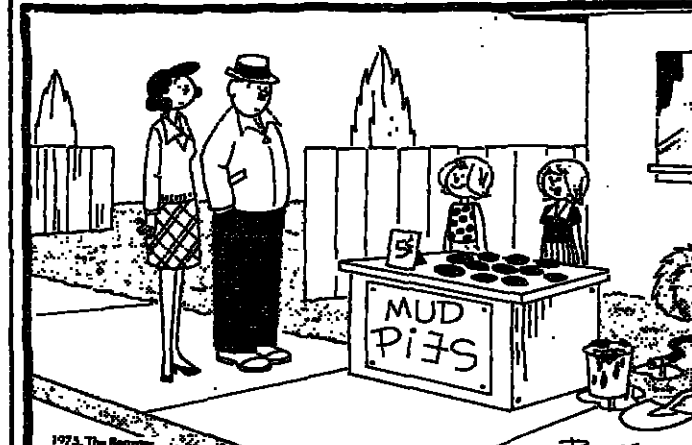
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Now you have the many pleasures that have been denied you for sometime so make a point to early make the engagements with congenial friends.

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By Barnes



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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME — by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LEREB

RODOP

EETELY

DOXUTE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

Saturday's Jumbles: SMACK EXCEL VANISH QUAVER

Answer: Why his brain is always fresh — HE NEVER USES IT

(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler

ACROSS

1 Sheet of matted cotton

5 Packs away

10 Gaelic

14 Explorer

15 Court decree

16 Kid

17 Old address

18 Tropical vine

19 Tribunal of prelates

20 Fairy tale pair

21 Walked

22 Soldiers

23 Empty

28 Cherish

32 Zodiac sign

34 Gem of an oyster

35 Burdensome demand

36 Forbids

37 Coppers

38 Movie

39 Native suft.

40 Types

41 Bravery

42 Final point

44 Mute

45 Sup

Financial Markets

Currency	USD/Dir	Dir/USD
Sterling Pound	1.7122	1.7185
Deutsche Mark	1.7103	1.7235
Swiss Franc	1.4183	1.4172
French Franc	5.8182	5.8210
Japanese Yen	125.94	125.45
European Currency Unit	1.1992	1.2019

USD Per Dir
Dir Per USD

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.56	5.50	5.47	5.42
Sterling Pound	12.81	12.75	12.56	12.50
Deutsche Mark	4.81	4.76	4.77	4.73
Swiss Franc	7.54	7.57	7.51	7.55
French Franc	9.12	9.31	9.43	9.67
Japanese Yen	7.40	7.36	7.35	7.35
European Currency Unit	9.52	9.63	9.51	9.47

Interbank bid rates for currencies (excluding U.S. Dollar) 1.000000 to 1.000000

Commodity	USD/Dir	Dir/USD
Gold	252.40	6.95
Silver	7.96	12.5

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 8/8/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	1.7122	1.7185
Sterling Pound	1.7103	1.7235
Deutsche Mark	1.4183	1.4172
Swiss Franc	5.8182	5.8210
French Franc	125.94	125.45
Japanese Yen	1.1992	1.2019
Dutch Guilder	1.566	1.568
Swedish Krona	1.107	1.113
Italian Lira	0.527	0.534
Belgian Franc	1.1925	1.1945

Per 100
Other Currencies
Date: 8/8/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7802	1.7809
Lebanese Lira	1.750	1.770
Saudi Riyal	1.623	1.630
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.656	1.662
Qatari Riyal	1.660	1.660
Egyptian Pound	1.7400	1.7500
Omani Riyal	1.656	1.662
UAE Dirham	1.350	1.350
Greek Drachma	1.4300	1.4500
Cypriot Pound	1.4300	1.4500

Per 100
C&D Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	6/8/1991 Close	7/8/1991 Close
All-Share	109.07	109.16
Banking Sector	103.90	103.52
Insurance Sector	119.07	119.06
Industry Sector	113.75	114.55
Services Sector	127.66	128.97

December 31, 1990 - 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7030/40	U.S. dollar	1.4600/65
One U.S. dollar	1.7175/85	Canadian dollar	1.9360/70
	1.9360/70	Deutsche marks	1.5040/47
	35.38/42	Dutch guilders	5.8450/500
	1286/1287	Swiss francs	136.15/25
	6.2430/80	Belgian francs	6.2430/80
	6.7150/720	French francs	6.6530/80
	6.6530/80	Italian lire	357.80/358.30
One ounce of gold	357.80/358.30	Japanese yen	
		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
		U.S. dollars	

Israel's trade deficit yawns

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's trade deficit rose by 86 per cent in the first seven months of 1991 compared to the same period in 1990, Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics said Thursday.

Israel's finance ministry officials said the sharp rise "emphasises in particular the need to obtain U.S. loan guarantees of \$10 billion to finance immigration," Israel television said.

Israel is expected to request the loan guarantees from the United States in September to aid in funding a wave of Soviet Jewish immigration.

There has been concern that granting of the guarantees might

be linked to continuing Jewish settlement of occupied Arab lands opposed by the Bush administration.

The deficit stands at \$3.16 billion for the first seven months of this year compared to \$1.7 billion last year, the Bureau said.

The rise resulted from a 14 per cent increase of imports and 4.5 per cent fall in exports in the period January to July, 1991. Imports rose by \$1.2 billion and exports shrank by \$300 million, it said.

Finance ministry officials said the import increase had been expected due to the wave of immigration that has brought

some 300,000 new immigrants to Israel in less than two years, the television said.

A construction boom to house the immigrants accounted for a large portion of the increase.

The officials attributed the fall in exports to a drop in world prices and industrial orders, including those for Israel's military industries.

Despite agreeing conditionally to U.S. proposals for a Middle East peace conference, Israel has continued to push settlement that has placed some 100,000 Jews amidst 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Abu Dhabi BCCI loss estimated at \$12 billion

DUBAI (R) — The emirate of Abu Dhabi may face losses of around \$12 billion due to the enforced closure of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), according to latest estimates by Gulf bankers and officials.

Various independent estimates have put the overall loss at anything from \$4 billion to \$15 billion.

But Gulf officials outside Abu Dhabi said that the \$12 billion was a figure the Abu Dhabi authorities themselves believed they would have to meet. The officials were assigned by their governments to assess the losses and the likely ripple effect on other economies in the region.

Abu Dhabi officials decline all comment on BCCI while the future of the troubled bank is still at issue.

The emirate's ruling Al Nahayan family and main financial institutions own 77.4 per cent of Luxembourg-based BCCI holdings, which controls the group's banking interests in BCCI and its Cayman Islands

sister BCCI Overseas.

The calculations do not rule out the possibility that the majority shareholders could eventually retrieve some of this money from bad debtors, or from the bank's surviving good assets, the bankers said.

But such an initial loss would equal almost two years' of Abu Dhabi's oil revenue, or almost one whole year of the United Arab Emirates' (UAE's) federal budget — funded mainly by UAE oil producing emirates Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Local bankers fear an economic squeeze while the emirate covers high initial payouts to compensate depositors and to write off bad debts.

Abu Dhabi has already offered additional payments to British depositors and intends to compensate UAE customers.

Last week, the British High Court awarded the majority shareholders a four-month reprieve from a Bank of England petition to wind up BCCI. Talks are continuing on ways to rescue BCCI and its Cayman Islands

Prudential confirms credit talks with Algeria

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. insurance giant Prudential confirmed Thursday that it is holding discussions with Algerian government banking agencies about ways it can help the country achieve its financial goals.

The Algerian central bank said in a statement Wednesday that the brokerage house, a subsidiary of insurance giant Prudential Insurance Co., would help arrange a \$5 billion credit to help Algeria restructure its debt.

The bank said in a statement that a protocol agreement for the credit had been signed in the presence of Prudential's managing director, Paul Scura, and the central bank governor.

Prudential Securities Inc. said in a statement Thursday that a proposal was being studied for it to act as adviser to Algeria. No agreement had been finalised and no direct investment by Prudential was envisaged.

The Algerian central bank said the credit would be useable over three years and repayable over eight with an unspecified grace period. "It will enable Algeria to organise a healthy reshaping of a major part of its non-public external debt," it added.

Algeria says it has a foreign debt of about \$24 billion, owed mostly by the government and state corporations. The World Bank puts the debt at \$26 billion.

Algerian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali said last month the economy would "suffocate" if it did not get an injection of \$6 or \$7 billion in the next five months. He has proposed raising the money by selling Algerian oil in advance to foreign oil companies.

In late July Algeria had enough foreign exchange reserves for 10 days of imports and the government could no longer raise new loans to service its foreign debts, he said.

Algeria expects to earn \$12 billion from oil and gas exports this year but repaying debt will cost \$8 billion. The debt service ratio has risen to 69 per cent from 18 per cent in 1988.

The head of an Algerian bank which signed the protocol with Prudential Securities Inc. (USA) envisaging \$5 billion credit said Thursday the accord had still to be finalised.

Jordan prepares to resume talks with London Club

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is preparing to resume negotiations on partial rescheduling of its foreign debts with commercial institutions grouped under the London Club after suspending debt service during the Gulf crisis, according to informed sources.

The Kingdom has already finalised several agreements with several European government creditors within the Paris Club ahead of the expected talks with the London Club, according to the sources.

The latest governments to agree to reschedule Jordan's debts were Britain, Belgium and Sweden. "Contacts with other governments have reached advanced stages and talks with the London Club could begin soon after finalisation of agreement with the government creditors," said one source.

Rescheduling accord with the Paris Club is seen as highly helpful in negotiations with the London Club although not essential.

However, Jordan has to have clearance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) before it can launch negotiations on debt rescheduling. An IMF delegation which visited the Kingdom earlier this year has filed a "very favourable" report with the fund headquarters on "Jordan's serious moves towards addressing its economic problems," a Western source said.

The Kingdom has not yet received the IMF green light, and it is expected the issue would be finalised when another IMF team visits the Kingdom "some time

soon," the source added.

Jordan is believed to have fallen behind by \$750 million in repaying principal and interest due to its creditors following Amman's decision to freeze debt servicing in September, shortly after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait scrambled the Kingdom's carefully chartered economic course.

Jordan's total foreign debts stood at \$8.3 billion — including unappropriated loans — at the end of 1987. Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh reported to Parliament earlier this year the figure stood at \$6.66 billion at the end of 1990. About 45 per cent of the amount are government-to-government debts while 19 per cent are owed to commercial institutions.

"Most governments are very sympathetic towards the Jordanian position and the predicament the Kingdom found itself in after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait," said one economic expert at a Western diplomatic mission here.

"It is highly probable that these governments will be willing to offer partial write-off of Jordan's debts," added the expert, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The direct financial cost of the Gulf crisis to Jordan's economy was around \$1.2 billion — 30 per cent of the gross domestic product — in 1990 as a result of the Kingdom's adherence to the international sanctions imposed against Iraq. These losses include \$170 million in exports, \$200 million in expatriate remittances, \$200 million in tourism revenues, \$120 million in transport, transit and shipping income and \$360 million in Arab financial assist-

ance, according to official figures compiled jointly with the IMF.

While these figures represent the "visible" losses, indirect damages to the Jordanian economy included negative consequences on savings and investment as well as the rate of growth and a rise in unemployment in various sectors.

Jordan received international assistance — in the form of grants as well as loans from the governments of Japan and Germany and other European Community members — which partly offset its losses, and the Kingdom used aid to balance its budget.

Official figures, endorsed by the IMF, estimate at \$2.4 billion Jordan's direct Gulf crisis-related losses for 1991.

Recent figures released by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) showed a substantial rise in the Kingdom's foreign currency and gold reserves, but these figures have to be seen against the backdrop of the freeze in debt servicing, analysts say.

Jordan was hoping to "buy back" part of its commercial debts when the Gulf crisis struck. "The option is still open, and the Kingdom could buy back part of its commercial debts at a cost lower than in July 1990" — immediately prior to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait — said Dr. Fahed Faneek, an economic analyst.

Regardless of its economic restructuring plans and programmes which are continuing on one track, Jordan is also hoping that a peace settlement with Israel could help it considerably in reducing defence expenditure, almost 35 per cent of all spending of the Kingdom.

Chinese cost of living soars

BEIJING (AP) — The cost of living in urban areas increased by 11 per cent as compared to the previous year and state factory warehouse bulged with unsold goods, the government has reported.

Zhang Zhongji, spokesman for the State Statistical Bureau, said however that China's economy enjoys "continued favourable development."

Mr. Zhang hinted at inflationary pressures, noting that the money supply was larger than needed, but refused to give figures and issued no strong warnings. He spoke at a news conference.

He also sought to minimise the impact of recent floods on the economy. He said the summer harvest prices will not be significantly affected.

Flooding in widespread parts of China, especially the east, has killed 1,781 people and left millions homeless. Other officials have described the impact in dire terms, noting that planting of autumn rice and other crops will be delayed.

Mr. Zhang, however, said there is no plan to adjust the national grain production target. It is set optimistically high at 435 million tonnes, equal to last year's record-setting crop.

Economists have repeatedly warned in the official media in recent months of the danger of a resurgence of inflation as the

government pumps loans and investment into inefficient state factories.

Mr. Zhang's report on the first half of 1991 showed the economy moving toward a new boom. He said state investment in industry was up 21 per cent over the same period last year, industrial output increased 13.4 per cent and retail sales increased nearly 13 per cent.

He put overall economic growth at 6.1 per cent, hitting almost exactly the national target.

At the same time, Mr. Zhang said the cost of living in June in 35 major cities was 10.9 per cent over June 1990.

He said retail sales prices rose an average of just 1.8 per cent in the first half of the year over the first half of 1990, and attributed the big jump in living costs to increased prices for services such as transportation.

The nation's warehouses held about 200 billion yuan (\$37.7 billion) worth of finished products at the end of May, he said, about 80 billion yuan (\$15 billion) of which had no buyer. The government does not slow or halt production of goods in low demand because it would create unemployment, which is politically dangerous.

The government has urged factories to shift production to new items and improve product quality, but many of state factories are too large and poorly managed to adapt to market conditions.

Incomes continued to increase faster than the economy, contributing to inflationary pressure. Mr. Zhang said urban per capita income rose 11.6 per cent to 1,039 yuan (\$196) annually, while in the countryside per capita income was up 10.7 per cent to 328 yuan (\$62).

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ANNOUNCEMENT



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Yugoslav ceasefire holds

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslav authorities tried Friday to end a face-off between armed Croats and Serbs after a ceasefire gave breakaway Croatia its first quiet night in weeks.

Serb guerrillas and Croatian security forces stared stonily at each other from battle positions and each side accused the other of violating the truce, declared Wednesday.

But no shooting incidents were reported.

With tension still high after weeks of bloodletting in which scores have died, diplomats said it was too early yet to pronounce the ceasefire successful.

"Things look okay for the moment. But the depth of hatred out there is such that things could change for the worst in an instant," said one diplomat in Belgrade.

The warring sides planned to exchange prisoners Friday by six p.m. (1600 GMT) in line with plans set up by a Yugoslav presidency commission implementing the ceasefire.

More than 300 people have died in Yugoslavia since Croatia and Slovenia declared independence on June 25. Croatia's secession is opposed by Serbs who comprise 600,000 of Croatia's 4.5 million people.

Yugoslav ceasefire observers, including representatives from the Croatian side and the republic's Serb community, arranged to start work from crisis centres set up in flashpoint areas.

A first team of observers, some to operate from helicopters, headed for the town of Dalj, in eastern Croatia.

The town was the scene of an attack by Serbs on Croatian militia on Aug. 2 in which at least 80 people were killed.

The ceasefire, declared by the state presidency, calls for combatants to pull back out of range of each other but federal officials say this has been only partially successful.

Diplomats say persuading the two sides to disengage and, later, to lay down their arms will prove a tortuous task.

Croatia, whose poorly-armed forces have been bloodied by the better-trained Serbs now occupying a large part of the republic, is in a weak position and the Zagreb leadership is unhappy over parts of the ceasefire deal.

The Croats say federal army units are backing the Serbian guerrillas. They have unsuccessfully called for the units to be withdrawn to barracks.

Diplomats said the Croatian leadership was sure to be un-

happy that the army had been assigned to police the ceasefire under the presidency's peace plan.

Croatia, fearful that it now stands to lose territory to the Serbs, wants international involvement in the crisis. But its rival Serbia is wary of this.

"Croatia will just have to swallow hard on the parts of the deal it does not like. If it wants the world community to get involved, it cannot be seen as pulling the rug out from under a ceasefire," said one diplomat.

The 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe indicated Thursday it was ready to help monitor a ceasefire but expected the Yugoslavs themselves to show they were doing all in their power to end the violence.

A peace mission by three European Community foreign ministers failed last weekend after Serbia's leaders did not show up for a final session of talks.

Borislav Jovic, Serbia's representative on the Yugoslav presidency, said Thursday that Serbia would only oppose EC observers from Germany and Italy.

"Observer missions cannot include countries which occupied Yugoslavia during World War II," he said.

Germany has been in the forefront of those EC countries which say European nations might have to recognise Croatia and Slovenia if Serbian guerrillas continue military operations.

Meanwhile Albania's foreign minister said Thursday he suspected neighbouring Serbia was instigating the new exodus of Albanians fleeing to the West, the Italian News Agency (ANSA) reported from Tirana.

"When anything goes wrong in Yugoslavia, it seems that somebody busies himself to spark off discontent here," Foreign Minister Muhamet Kapllani told Italian reporters.

Asked if he was referring to Belgrade, he replied: "No, I did not say Belgrade. I'm speaking about the Serbs."

Prime Minister Ylli Bufi was more cautious. Asked if he shared his foreign minister's views, he said: "The situation is complex. I can't exclude the fact that there is something like this, but I can't really answer."

The main bone of contention between Albanians and Serbs is the Yugoslav border province of Kosovo. Albanian Muslims are now in a majority there, but Kosovo played a major role in the history of the Christian Serbs.

S. Africa, Argentina restore ties

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — South Africa and Argentina Thursday resumed full diplomatic relations that were downgraded five years ago, the Foreign Affairs Ministry announced.

Argentina downgraded relations to the consular level in May 1986 at a time when many countries were breaking ties with South Africa to protest apartheid. South Africa's parliament repealed apartheid legislation this year.

A ministry statement said the decision to resume diplomatic ties was made during a telephone conversation between South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha and his Argentine counterpart, Guido Di Tella.

The statement said ambassadors would be appointed soon. Several East European and African countries have restored diplomatic relations with South Africa this year because of government reforms aimed at ending apartheid.

South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha conferred Thursday with a Soviet envoy and predicted afterwards that relations would improve steadily.

Mr. Botha had an hour of talks with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Valeri Nikolayenko, the highest-ranking Soviet official to visit Pretoria.

"I foresee steady, closer cooperation between us," Mr. Botha told reporters, according to the South African Press Association. He said there was no rush to restore full diplomatic ties.

Moscow and Pretoria resumed low-level diplomatic ties in July after more than 30 years of hostility during which fiercely anti-Communist South African governments cited Soviet expansionism as the main reason for repressive security laws.

Political reforms in both countries led last November to the first official Soviet trade visit since Pretoria closed the Soviet embassy in 1956.

Meanwhile South African newspapers levelled new "dirty tricks" charges against the government Friday, reporting secret payments to the mainly-Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party as recently as February.

Sri Lankan parliament floats peace signal

COLOMBO (AP) — Parliament unanimously approved a resolution Friday sponsored by a hard-line opposition party creating a committee to recommend a political settlement with Tamil rebels.

The resolution, adopted by a voice vote in the 225-member house, said the committee should "arrive at a political solution to the national question involving the devolution of power to the northern and eastern provinces."

Tamils, led by the Liberation Tigers for Tamil Eelam (LTTE), have been fighting since 1983 for independence in the north and east, where the Tamil population is concentrated.

The resolution was proposed by a member of the opposition Freedom Party which until now has led the criticism of the government's handling of the Tamil war, usually urging tougher military action against the rebels.

The committee, whose 12 members will be appointed later, should discuss ways to prevent the disintegration of the nation, the resolution said. It also should seek ways to stop the killing of innocent civilians and members of the armed forces, it said.

Meanwhile, guerrillas backed to death seven Muslim farmers and burned their corpses in eastern Sri Lanka, military officials said. They said the attack was in

retaliation for the rebel defeat in the battle for Elephant Pass, a strategic military camp.

The villagers were killed Thursday at Sammanthurai, 218 kilometres east of the capital of Colombo, said the officials, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity.

The Muslim community, which makes up about 7 per cent of the population, is concentrated in the troubled eastern province and has been caught up in the fighting between government troops and the rebels.

Officials of the Joint Operations Command said the army had been expecting a civilian massacre in response to the rebel's failure to overrun the Elephant Pass army camp, 295 kilometres north of Colombo.

Last Saturday, relief troops broke a 25-day rebel siege of the camp which controls the highway that is the only land link between the mainland and the Jaffna peninsula where the Tigers are based.

The officials said, according to radio intercepts, 150 Tiger rebels were killed Thursday when the army moved against bunkers surrounding the camp.

Six soldiers were killed and 52 injured in Thursday's operation, they said, revising an earlier report of eight dead.

Albanians storm out of Bou stadium to avoid deportation

BARI, Italy (R) — Thousands of Albanian refugees poured out of a soccer stadium in this southern port Friday and overran police and troops trying to keep them penned inside until deportation.

The Albanians had spent the night locked inside the disused soccer stadium after a ship with 10,000 refugees forced its way into Bari Harbour Thursday.

They broke down a huge steel door and charged out. Some clambered down the walls.

Police and troops tried to contain the Albanians with baton charges but hundreds ran away from the stadium down adjoining streets before police could cordon them off.

The riot, which followed an attempted break out by the Albanians from the stadium Thursday night, came as Italy

began an air shuttle to repatriate all the latest refugees to Albania within three days.

Busloads of 60 refugees to Bari Airport from the docks where 3,000 other Albanians spent the night in the open. They were placed on a Tirana-bound plane under heavy police escort.

Two military transport planes took off from Bari Friday morning with 60 refugees and an equal number of police.

The Italian military hoped one flight would leave every half hour for the short crossing across the Adriatic Sea to Tirana.

At the stadium, troops backed army trucks up against the doors to prevent them being forced open while police helicopters buzzed overhead, trying to track escaping refugees.

Polozkov appointed senior agricultural official

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Conservative Ivan Polozkov has been appointed the Soviet Union's first deputy agriculture minister, two days after being ousted as leader of the Russian Federation Communist Party. Soviet media reported Thursday.

Interfax News Agency briefly announced the appointment of Mr. Polozkov, 56, who is caricatured as an archtypical conservative because of virulent opposition to rapid introduction of market-oriented reforms.

He quit the party post after coming under fierce criticism at a meeting of the Central Committee by members who clearly felt his views made him an electoral liability.

In his final speech as party leader Tuesday, he accused his critics of trying to lead Soviet society, "to an uncontrolled market, to the supremacy of private property."

Development of market-based systems, including widespread use of land leasing, is a key element in efforts to make Soviet agriculture more efficient and eliminate the need to use scarce convertible currency to import grain.

Shortages in food supplies and problems in bringing in this year's harvest are among the Kremlin's main preoccupations, with President Mikhail Gorbachev offering special incentives to farmers. He is expected to issue a special decree on food in the coming days.

Mr. Gorbachev's former top adviser, Alexander Yakovlev, meanwhile, told a television interview that he has lost faith in the ability of the Communist Party to lead reform efforts.

"(Gorbachev) continues to believe in the transformation of the party by bringing together all healthy forces to rebuild its role into a positive one," he told Russian television. "I don't believe this any more."

But Mr. Yakovlev, one of the pioneers of Mr. Gorbachev's perestroika reforms who left the president's team two weeks ago, declined to say whether he intended to turn in his party membership in the coming months.

Meanwhile, a Soviet newspaper reported Thursday that the Communist Party, its membership plummeting, projects a budget deficit of more than 1 billion rubles and is on the verge of financial collapse.

The radical Nezavisimaya Gazeta published what it said were the party's confidential balance sheets, tallying revenues and expenditures for 1990 and 1991. "Communist Party on eve of bankruptcy," said the headline.

Party officials would not immediately confirm the authenticity of the documents, but Nezavisimaya Gazeta previously has published confidential party documents that turned out to be genuine.

The unprecedented report came on the same day that Pravda, the party newspaper, published the latest draft of the party's ideological programme.

Military reformers blame Lithuania deaths on KGB

MOSCOW (AP) — A group of military reformers have blamed the KGB for the killings of seven Lithuanian law enforcement officers at a customs post nine days ago.

Vitaly Yurazhnev, chairman of Shield, an independent group of servicemen committed to military reform, told reporters that the group had sent its own experts to Lithuania to investigate the July 31 killings.

"The crime was planned beforehand and thoroughly prepared. The operation was headed by the Soviet KGB with the help of the Omon in Vilnius and Riga," Mr. Yurazhnev said.

The Omon, also known as the "black berets," are special paramilitary units under the control of the Soviet Interior Ministry and have participated in previous attacks on government buildings throughout the Baltics.

The Shield experts concluded that "units of the Baltic military district did not take part in the action. But the commanders of the district were warned about the planned action," Mr. Yurazhnev said. He was reading a statement by the group.

However, Mr. Yurazhnev declined to be specific about the evidence that led Shield to pinpoint the KGB, or to name the members of the group of military experts sent to Lithuania.

He said the type of weapons used by the attackers pointed to the KGB, but added that other evidence was to be kept confidential while Shield's investigation continued. He did not say when the information would be released or to whom it would be submitted.

Shield is a group of lawmakers

and military officers that was formed in 1989 to provide social protection for servicemen and pursue reforms within the Soviet military. Among other things, they favour an all-volunteer force.

The seven Lithuanian law enforcement officers were shot and killed by unknown attackers at the Medininkai customs post about 40 kilometres from Vilnius on the border with Byelorussia.

An eighth victim, the only potential witness, is in serious condition in a Lithuanian hospital. The Soviet News Agency (TASS) said Thursday that it was too early for the witness to give evidence.

The KGB, the Soviet Defence Ministry and the Soviet Interior Ministry all have denied responsibility for the killings, which occurred during a Moscow summit between U.S. President Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Accusations that the KGB was involved "are totally unfounded, do not correspond to reality and are provocative," the KGB Public Relations Centre said in a second statement Thursday, TASS reported.

There have been more than 20 assaults on the customs posts set up by the breakaway republic since last year. The Medininkai attack was the most serious since 14 people died when Soviet troops opened fire on unarmed civilians surrounding the Vilnius Television Tower on Jan. 23.

Mr. Yurazhnev said Shield was calling for formation of an independent international commission to investigate the Medininkai incident.

TV newsmen Harry Reasoner dead at 68

NEW YORK (Agencies) — T.V. newsmen Harry Reasoner, whose elegant prose, dry wit and wry, self-effacing style helped make CBS's "60 Minutes" newsmagazine one of U.S. television's most popular programmes, died Tuesday of cardiopulmonary arrest. He was 68.

The white-haired, craggy-faced journalist was a veteran CBS News reporter and former "ABC Evening News" broadcaster who won numerous journalism awards.

Mr. Reasoner joined CBS in New York in 1956, working up through the ranks as a radio and T.V. newscaster and commentator. He became known for his light touch with the news and a warm, personal style.

He left CBS in 1970 to co-anchor "The ABC Evening News" with Howard K. Smith. In 1975, he and Barbara Walters became network T.V.'s first male-female evening anchor team, but their collaboration soured and he rejoined CBS in 1978.

He won several Emmy awards, a George Foster Peabody Award for "outstanding contributions to television news" in 1967 and was honoured by the Overseas Press Club of America for best television documentary on foreign affairs for a report on Africa.

"Harry Reasoner was one of the gentle giants of broadcast journalism," said Howard Stringer, president of the CBS Broadcast Group.

The author of three books, Reasoner is survived by his wife, Lois, and seven children from a previous marriage.

Reformer becomes new Hanoi premier

BANGKOK (AP) — Vo Van Kiet, a leading advocate of capitalist-style reform, was elected prime minister of Vietnam Friday.

The 69-year-old Mr. Kiet, who fought the French and Americans as a Communist guerrilla, succeeds the more conservative Du Moi in the key government position.

The official Voice of Vietnam, monitored in Bangkok, said Mr. Kiet was elected during the afternoon session of the National Assembly in Hanoi. His predecessor had submitted his resignation during the morning session.

The election took place at Ba Dinh conference hall in the Vietnamese capital, where the assembly has been meeting for the past two weeks. It is scheduled to elect members of the new cabinet during its closing session Saturday.

Mr. Kiet has been regarded as one of the most liberal figures in the senior power hierarchy, and had pushed for reforming the country's centrally planned, state-run economy.

A number of capitalist-style changes have been injected into the economy in recent years, although the Communist Party has refused to relinquish its monopoly on power.

With an estimated annual per capita of \$200, Vietnam ranks as one of the world's poorest nations. It is plagued by a soaring

population, natural disasters which destroy vital food crops, an antiquated infrastructure and a trade embargo imposed by the United States.

Mr. Kiet, from southern Vietnam, is the country's third most powerful figure based on his ranking in the Communist Party's politburo.

Mr. Du Moi tops the politburo and was named to head Vietnam's Communist Party during a congress last June when he held the prime ministership. Traditionally, the party leadership and prime minister's portfolio do not go to the same person.

Defence Minister Le Duc Anh is ranked no. 2 in the politburo.

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Defence Minister Le Duc Anh is ranked no. 2 in the politburo.

Typhoon, rainstorm hit Shanghai area, 12 dead

PEKING (AP) — A tornado whipped through towns and farmland on Shanghai's outskirts, killing at least 12 people and felling hundreds of homes, according to official reports Friday.

More than 160 people were injured when the tornado struck Wednesday evening, moving in a westward line just south of Shanghai, China's largest city with 13 million residents, and Suzhou, a major tourist city west of Shanghai.

The tornado was accompanied by torrential rains that lasted about 12 hours, Shanghai newspapers said. They reported widespread flooding, with some areas receiving 210mm of rain in a few hours.

The storm came as large parts of China battled flooding caused by the worst storms in decades. Heavy rains continued in northeastern China, the latest area to be hit, but information on damage remained sketchy.

Authorities refused to release final casualty figures from Shanghai, but a total of 12 weather-related deaths were reported in the Thursday editions of Shanghai's Liberation Daily newspaper. Wen Hui News and Xinmin Evening News.

The Xinmin Evening News said five people were killed when their homes collapsed, one man died of a heart attack and a young couple was electrocuted the morning after the storm when they touched an electric fan while trying to clear flood water out of their

home. It also reported a 28-year-old man electrocuted by a downed power line on a street.

Wen Hui News said two elderly bicyclists also were electrocuted by a downed powerline. The Liberation Daily said a 3-year-old child was killed when a building collapsed. More than 100 people were injured, it said.

The Liberation Daily also reported 61 people injured in five villages on Suzhou's outskirts, where it said several hundred homes collapsed.

A man who answered the telephone at the National Flood Control Headquarters in Peking said his office was instructed not to release the casualty figures.

Heavy rains caused flooding in the lower Yangtze River valley in eastern China in June and July, leaving millions homeless and wiping out much of the summer wheat crop. Since then, flooding also has been reported in southern China's Guizhou Province, Sichuan in the southwest, Shandong in the east, and most recently, the northeastern provinces of Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning.

Figures released by provincial governments put the nationwide death toll at 1,962 by late July.

Later news reports have noted "many deaths" in the northeast but no figures have been given.

China's flood victims have received more than \$34 million in aid but that still falls far short of needs, official reports said Thursday.

Philippines could lose \$3.5b without U.S. bases

MANILA (R) — The Philippines could lose up to \$3.5 billion in aid over the next decade if it fails to ratify a new military bases agreement with the United States, a U.S. official said Friday.

Stanley Schrager, U.S. spokesman at the bases talks with Manila, said the agreement faced an "uphill battle" in Manila's Senate but Washington remained hopeful the senators would see it as "a very good deal" for the Philippines.

He said Manila stood to get \$3.5 billion or more in direct, base-related assistance over the next 10 years.

The figure "is just for starters" and would not include several hundred million dollars in expected procurements and expenditures each year by U.S. forces in the country, he said.

Without a new bases agreement, "we're not going to have direct base-related assistance," he said. "I think that's understood."

Mr. Schrager stressed this did not mean all U.S. assistance to the Philippines would end.

Even without a bases treaty, Washington would help Manila in terms of development and food aid, and donations to a multi-lateral aid programme and a reconstruction fund for areas devastated by the eruptions of the Mount Pinatubo volcano, he said.

The current U.S. lease on Subic Bay Naval Station and Clark Air Base expires on Sept. 16, leaving the two countries a little over five weeks to put a new treaty in place.

Rejection of the accord would mean U.S. forces would pull out from their biggest bases in Asia, ending nearly a century of the U.S. military presence in the former colony.

At least 15 senators in the 23-member Philippine Senate have opposed the new agreement which would allow the United States to keep Subic for at least 10 more years and relinquish the volcano-ravaged Clark.

The senators say the treaty is unacceptable because of its duration and because it provides for a cash guarantee of only \$200 million a year, while the rest of the package has to be negotiated annually.

This would make the Philippines look like a beggar each year, they say.

Apparently worried by the stiff opposition to the accord, chief U.S. negotiator Richard Armitage has written to the senators individually urging its urging its approval and telling them the future of the two countries' relations lies in their hands.

Washington considers the bases, specially Subic, vital in the defence of sea lanes in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Withdrawal of U.S. forces could create a serious security vacuum in Asia and shake investor-confidence in the Philippines, Western and Asian diplomats say.

"American investors have told us that they feel more confident with the bases here," Mr. Schrager said. "They won't desist from investing" but it might not

be as much. I think that's the point."

Commenting on prospects of Senate approval of the accord, Mr. Schrager said, "It's an uphill battle but we're making progress."

He said the U.S. embassy was continuing its contacts with Philippine officials and politicians. "There is nothing sinister about this. This is what diplomacy is all about," Mr. Schrager said.

Senate President Jovito Salonga, a leader of the anti-bases bloc in the chamber, doubted that Mr. Armitage's letter to the senators could swing the vote for ratification.

"I think the senators have made up their mind. Unless we see some substantial improvement in the agreement, I don't see how senators would change their position," Sen. Salonga said Thursday.

Senator Rene Saguisag said the accord faced "certain rejection" in the Senate.

"The clear mandate or message shall be that no treaty with any nation on less than honourable terms will pass any Senate that wants to be on the right side of history," he said.

In a separate development, President Corason Aquino Thursday rejected an appeal from Philippine senators and congressmen seeking a homeland burial for the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"When we are ready, to receive the body, an announcement will be made," she said in a press

statement, after the lawmakers urged her to ban a Marcos funeral in the country to clear the way for national reconciliation.

She added: "Still, I am glad that certain congressmen and senators seem ready to take responsibility for any mischief resulting from Marcos's return."

Mrs. Aquino has refused to allow the remains of the former president, who died in Hawaii in 1989, to be buried in the Philippines, fearing a Marcos funeral might incite violence.

Last week, Mrs. Aquino lifted the ban on the return of former first lady Imelda Marcos from more than five years in exile in the United States so she can stand trial in Manila on corruption charges.

At least 144 members of the 209-member House of Representatives, a majority of them belonging to Mrs. Aquino's ruling coalition, signed a resolution Wednesday urging the government to lift its ban on Mr. Marcos's remains.

Eight of the country's 23 senators initiated a similar resolution in the upper chamber.

Mrs. Marcos, who insists on bringing home her husband's remains, promised in an interview with a Manila radio station Wednesday that she would not use her husband's body for political gain.

The Marcoses fled to the United States in 1986 after they were overthrown in a popular revolt that swept Mrs. Aquino to power.

COLUMN

Kirk Douglas's son accused of kicking policeman

LOS ANGELES (R) — Eric Douglas, actor son of Kirk Douglas, was accused of kicking a policeman who was sent to break up an argument between the younger Douglas and his lawyer, prosecutors said. Douglas, 33, was charged with battery against Beverly Hills policeman Michael Carra, 37, who received minor leg injuries. Douglas could be sentenced to up to a year in jail.

He was released on bail of \$3,000. Carra was the pilot of a helicopter on which Kirk Douglas, 72, was a passenger when it was in collision with a stunt plane near Santa Paula, California, last February. Douglas suffered broken ribs, cuts and bruises and Carra and the other passenger on board the helicopter were also injured. The two people on the stunt plane were killed. Beverly Hills police said it was a coincidence Carra was one of several policemen sent to intervene in a loud argument between the younger Douglas and his lawyer in a nearby office. Eric Douglas is the son of Kirk Douglas by his second marriage, to Anne Buydens. His more famous half brother, Michael Douglas, is the son of Kirk Douglas by his first marriage, to British actress Diana Dill.

Life on Mars — don't hold your breath

LONDON (R) — Life on Mars, long a staple of science fiction, may become a reality. But don't hold your breath — it could take up to 100,000 years, scientists said Thursday. Writing in the science journal Nature, Christopher McKay, of the NASA Ames Research Centre in California, and fellow researchers said it may be possible for scientists to redesign the environment of the red planet to support plants and people. "Mars is believed to be lifeless, but it may be possible to transform it into a planet suitable for habitation by plants and conceivably humans,"